

Hafa Adai!

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## PSS: 6K families need internet

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With the Public School System gearing up to implement a mix of online learning and classroom instruction for the upcoming school year, it has identified 6,000 families that need internet connection in order for students to participate in the "new normal" approach to education.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said that PSS has identified 6,000 families with no internet connection at

home. He assured, though, that, when the time comes when the new school

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## Talks in US Senate of 2nd round of stimulus

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A second stimulus check could be a possibility, with the U.S. Senate set to propose a new batch of relief intended to help people survive the financial crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the media briefing Friday, Finance Secretary David Atalig said that there are discussions in the U.S. Senate about a possible second batch of stimulus, but noted that the

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## Less than 3K unaffected by 'touchback'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Based on a recent Office of Insular Affairs report, it was determined that less than 3,000 CNMI-Only Transitional workers qualify as "legacy" or "long-term" workers and will be exempt from the newly implemented touchback provision of the law that would require

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### BUSINESS

Pajukol Korean Restaurant is known as one of the longest running businesses on Saipan.

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### NATION

Parents are anxiously weighing the benefits of in-person instruction for their kids against the risks.

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### WORLD

Iran has moved a mock aircraft carrier to the strategic Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions.

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# Local

## ‘Environment, people, culture have always been priorities’

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres says he has always made it clear in his dealings with the U.S. military that his priority is the CNMI environment, its people, and its culture, so a House joint resolution that urges him to oppose any increased destructive military presence or training in the CNMI is not necessary.

Speaking at his radio news briefing last Friday, Torres pointed out that this has always been his stance since his time as Senate president.

The House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs is currently reviewing House

Joint Resolution 21-8, which urges Torres to oppose increased destructive military presence or training in the CNMI, and is seeking comments from the public about it.

“The resolution is really not needed, for me personally, because I’ve been dealing with the military since I was Senate president, and I’ve always made it a point that our environment, our people, our culture is a priority,” he said.

Torres said he understands the importance of partnering with the U.S. Department of Defense, but also acknowledged “chal-

lenges,” noting, for one, the environmental impact statements in the CNMI Joint Military Training. “There’s projects that need to be addressed. This is the first time that DoD and the CNMI are on the table to look at what is their proposal, and what are the concerns of the entire Marianas.”

The governor highlighted the chance that the CNMI community has to express concerns in writing. “I encourage all of our people to [put] their concerns in writing. ... I remember one of the earlier EIS; there’s 27,000 comments. We need to hear

those concerns. I’ve been on this DoD and this issue for 10 years now, and the concern is still there,” he said.

The governor reiterated his earlier statement that he has never agreed to the Mariana Islands Training and Testing proposal,

saying “for the record, there’s never been a negotiation.”

“There’s never been anything that addresses me of moving forward with the wishes of the DoD without putting on the table our concerns as a community, and our culture

and environment,” he added.

The governor also said that he wants to maintain his good partnership with the Department of Defense, while incorporating the concerns of people, culture, and environment of the CNMI. *(Iva Maurin)*

## US govt not opposed to DFEMS chief testifying

The U.S. government does not oppose Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig’s request for the federal court to determine prior to the trial whether Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis James C. Mendiola has a valid basis for asserting his Fifth Amendment privilege if he is called to testify at trial.

The Fifth Amendment protects individuals from being forced to incriminate themselves.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric S. O’Malley informed

the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that, although the parties have sought to resolve the issue regarding Mendiola through a stipulation of facts, they have not, at this time, been able to come to an agreement. In light of this, O’Malley said the U.S. government does not oppose the mayor’s request.

Atalig intends to call Mendiola to testify at trial in the case against him (Atalig) and his girlfriend in federal court. Mendiola used to serve as

Rota DFEMS deputy commissioner. He was among the eight Rota officials, including Efraim Atalig, that the Office of the Attorney General had charged with misconduct in public office before the Superior Court. OAG, however, later dropped the charge against Mendiola.

The case stems from an alleged Republican rally in Guam in June 2018 that the Rota officials reportedly attended in the guise of a legitimate government trip. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

water line repair, a more reliable water system will be provided to the areas affected.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, please proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes as the eastbound lane heading down Kagman Road will be closed during the waterline repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). *(PR)*

### Water service interruption for entire Kagman

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for the entire Kagman

area on Friday, July 31, 2020 from 8am to 4pm

The purpose of the scheduled water interruption is to allow CUC’s contractor, Hong Ye Construction, to perform system improvements by relocating existing water service lines to the distribution line for a more reliable water system. In addition, a new 12-inch gate valve will be installed on Chacha Road in Kagman.

This work is part of CUC’s Kagman Waterline and Booster Rehabilitation Replacement Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). *(PR)*

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## DFEMS chief files candidacy to run as Rota senator

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis James Camacho Mendiola has filed his papers as an independent candidate for the lone Rota senatorial seat at this Nov. 3 election.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez also disclosed yesterday that radio

talk show host Glenn Hocog Manglona and Jim Michael Atalig have also filed their candidacies.

Manglona is running as an independent candidate for a seat in the House of Representatives Precinct 1, while Atalig is seeking a seat on the Rota Municipal Council.

Mendiola and Manglona

filed their candidacies Friday, while Atalig did so on Thursday, Villagomez said. This brings to five the total number of people who have filed candidacies so far.

Rota Municipal Council chief of staff Lorita Mesngon Manglona was the first to file her candidacy.

Retired U.S. Navy Vincent

Raymond Seman Aldan also filed his candidacy as an independent for a House Precinct 1 seat, making him the first one on Saipan to file a candidacy for this year's election.

The CEC has been accepting the filing of petitions and candidacies since last July 6. Aug. 5 is the deadline to submit nominating petition and

candidacy.

Villagomez reminded those who are running for office to submit their petitions for candidacy now as time is getting short.

Villagomez said she is sending a CEC staff to Tinian and Rota on Aug. 3 to accept petitions and to accept registrations.

The position for the U.S. delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives and 34 other

government positions, excluding three from the Judiciary for retention, are up for grabs in the coming general election on Nov. 3.

The top seat for the coming election is the U.S. delegate to the House of Representatives, a position that has been held by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) since he was elected in 2008. (*Ferdie De La Torre*)

## Solar power seen to cut CHCC's power bill by 20%

With the Commonwealth Health-care Corp. owing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. nearly \$36 million in utility bills that keep growing by about \$400,000 per month, the Torres administration fully supports the corporation's solar power generation project that is seen to cut the hospital's power bill by 20%.

Soon after the CHCC board met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Finance Secretary David Atalig last July 24 at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios later told reporters that he's delighted that CHCC has a long-term solution.

"I'm very, very glad to see that that system is going to be up and running fairly soon that will supposedly save them about 20% in their power bill, which is great and makes making things a little easier for them," said Palacios.

In Palacios' opinion, CHCC

He was quick to add, though, that this projected savings will not hinder the commitment that the Executive Branch and central government have made to CHCC. "That doesn't mean that the Executive Branch and the governor will not continue to closely engage with CHCC to make sure that it continues to operate in a manner regardless of the costs," said Palacios.

Palacios said that the administration will continue to help CHCC be able to make payments to CUC so that CHCC can continue to provide services to people in need. "We'll find the resources somewhere," said Palacios. "It's been a challenge, to say the least, but sometimes you have to have these discussions to refocus and reset the priorities in our community."

With CUC demanding that CHCC pay it \$5 million by August and with the central government promising to pay half of that amount, Torres asked if there was any amount that CHCC can contribute every month, to which Esther Muña, CHCC's chief executive officer, replied that CHCC is always running a deficit.

She pointed out that CHCC is struggling to shoulder uncompensated care, which takes a huge bite out of its operating expenses. Together with Medicaid costs, the hos-

pital is only getting "50 cents on the dollar, maybe even 60 cents," she said.

Derek Sasamoto, CHCC chief financial officer, says that the corporation runs into a shortfall every year. Even if they do a lot to grow their resources, the shortfall still exists, he said. "We see our uncompensated care numbers

going up, as well as a lot of obligations with other government agencies that are rising," said Sasamoto. "We actually reported that in our budget hearing, so for us to redirect the cash that's currently available, that we're currently generating, we'll have to figure out where to take that from."

Sasamoto says that 90% of what the hospital spends goes straight into services, as well as the hospital's operations.

The initial phase of CHCC's solar project has already been completed, according to CHCC Hospital Emergency Preparedness director Warren Villagomez, but it is not yet providing power to the hospital. When everything is ready, the system will supply power to the hospital's intensive care unit, emergency room, and the operating room. (*Justine Nauta*)

## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

#### COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS



Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after **July 08, 2020** **August 03, 2020** the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Renovation and Expansion of the Tanapag Youth Center	Construct new extension building; Rehabilitate existing building.	Tanapag, Saipan	\$200,000.00

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by **July 08, 2020** **August 03, 2020, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

#### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

#### OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office **1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813** by email to CPD Honolulu Field Office: **CPDHonolulu@hud.gov** and **CPD\_COVID-190EE-HNL@hud.gov**. Potential objectors should contact the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

  
Ralph DLG Torres  
Governor, CNMI

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

## Homeland Security, GAR grilled on COVID-19 vendor contracts

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In a back-to-back session yesterday, members of the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding grilled officials handling COVID-19 expenditures on issues concerning vendor contracts, particularly the choice of companies that are allegedly Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' "biggest campaign contributors."

Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management special as-

sistant Gerald J. Deleon Guerrero and Public Assistance Office Governor's authorized representative Patrick C. Guerrero were both grilled by Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) if they are aware that a number of sole-sourced contracts contributed to Torres' campaign.

Sablan, in particular, mentioned Medpharm Group of Companies, International Royal, E-Land Group, and TanHoldings. *Saipan Tribune* is an affiliate of the latter.

Deleon Guerrero answered with several "no's," while Guerrero said

Some of the board members of the landlord company, Marianas Management Corp., were also at the ceremony. Manglona recognized the presence of Norman T. Tenorio, Patricia T. Palacios, and Frances T. Demapan, and representing MMC president Clarence T. Tenorio and members Annie T. Sablan and Priscilla T. Tenorio, who were unable to join them, was Bo T. Palacios.

Also present were two MMC representatives who played critical roles in this project: Corporate projects manager Somia T. Quan and chief financial officer Yenny Tom.

Manglona said she had hoped to host a public grand opening celebration two weeks ago with dignitaries from the U.S. Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, GSA, the CNMI government, members of the community, as well as the public. The COVID-19 virus, however, forced them to postpone the grand opening and limit the in-person attendance to building management and tenants only.

"We believe it is not the appropriate time for a grand celebration when this pandemic remains a constant threat here in the CNMI, and has wreaked havoc to the nation and the world," the judge said.

Manglona said they are pleased with the design features of this courthouse, which include a spacious 2,400-square-foot column-free courtroom with a unique oculus skylight; a large multi-purpose space that functions as a second courtroom, two judges' chambers, a jury assembly room, a law library, and multiple office spaces facing the lagoon.

against the spread of COVID-19," Ada said in a presentation during a recent Board of Education meeting.

Ada said the hybrid approach is designed to diminish the PSS students' vulnerability to COVID-19 exposure by providing combined remote, or online, and face-to-face learning instructions. The percentage of each type of instruction will vary depending on the COVID-19 condition in the CNMI.

For students who will avail of face-to-face instruction, school buses will continue to provide transportation with social distancing measures in place. Parents are encouraged to regularly monitor their children's health. If feeling unwell, children should stay home.

To ensure everyone's safety, there will be regular temperature screening for all students and staff, Ada said, adding that students with a temperature of 100.3F and above will not be allowed to board the bus or attend school.

As for the Child Nutrition Program,

he does not know who contributes to the governor's campaign.

"What I am hearing is that this [Federal Emergency Management Agency]-approved Incident Command System for procurement is being fast-tracked or bypassed for some, but not all contracts," Sablan added.

ICS is FEMA's management system. "Some of the biggest contracts that have bypassed this process have been awarded to political supporters, campaign contributors, family connections, what appears to be Cabinet

"At the entrance of the Clerk's Office, one can take in the view of the verdant mountainside to the east, and the ever-present ships toward the horizon on the west, all from one spot," Manglona said.

The judge said her predecessor, Senior Judge Alex R. Munson, began the quest for a new courthouse shortly after the 1995 bombing of the federal courthouse in Oklahoma City. She said Munson made some progress along the way, but the circumstance that provided the necessary momentum occurred after he retired when there was no sitting chief judge for the NMI.

Manglona recalled that in October 2010, a van rammed through the ground floor courtroom at the Horiguchi Building, destroying several rows of public gallery seating. She said Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, as the designated judge for the U.S. District Court for the NMI, received the call about the incident. Manglona said Tydingco-Gatewood immediately took action to continue the quest and push for a new, secure courthouse.

Manglona said that as soon as she became chief judge nine years ago, she made it her mission to find a place that meets the national standards of a federal courthouse. Since then, she said, she worked with many judges to get GSA to prioritize the NMI among the many other courts' requests for new facilities throughout the country.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

Ada said all students will continue to receive meal services whether they attend classes remotely or onsite.

PSS will use the Blackboard application as its learning management system with this new hybrid approach and teachers will undergo training in August to prepare their virtual classrooms using the web-based learning tool.

PSS also aims to establish adequate infrastructure and protocols to minimize vulnerability and ensure the safety of all staff and students, Ada added.

He said schools will also emphasize social emotional learning because students need a clear understanding of what is happening during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Ada said PSS wants to help students manage their stress and relationships to increase their ability to learn.

Instruction will also focus on priority standards and school work to minimize instructional loss and ensure continued learning, said Ada.

members with interest in business, favoring some business with political connections over others," she added.

### Bypassed?

Lawmakers also questioned the \$2.5-million contract granted to clothing retailer International Royal dba Bics in Guam, that "somehow found out" about the supplies needed by the CNMI for PPEs, when local distributors were not even aware of the need at that time.

Deleon Guerrero said he does not know Royal Bics and is not sure what kind of business they do, but that the COVID-19 Task Force had reached out to company and it supplied them with the things they asked for. "Nobody else could do it in a short amount of time," Guerrero said, referring to him signing on the Bics contract, adding that "someone" has already told him that the company has been providing the same prod-

### LESS

From Page 1

them to leave the CNMI and "touch back" their country of origin.

According to Alex Sablan of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., the OIA report states that less than 3,000 individuals qualify as a "legacy" or "long-term" visa holder in the Commonwealth.

"Everyone but under 3,000, everybody but the long-term, needs to touch back. We always assumed it was somewhere in the neighborhood of 6,000 or even 9,000 because of the number we had out here but some people had to leave and that break caused them not to be a continuous employee," he said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan explained that, as per the definition of the U.S. Congress, what defines as a "legacy" worker is a CW worker from 2015 to 2018 who has been continuously employed in the CNMI, with no shift in employment to a different employer, and more.

"It's affecting anybody who was under that definition, as defined within the public law, and it is a good number of our CWs today. If you look at the intention of the law, this is exactly what

### TALKS

From Page 1

proposal must first pass the U.S. Congress and be signed by President Donald J. Trump.

Atalig also said that the federal Internal Revenue Services has been keeping the CNMI in the loop. "We are being updated by IRS on the possibility of a second round. We don't know any details, what that would be, or how to go about it. It is just more information coming to us about possibilities and to prepare ourselves in terms of having staff prepare for another round."

So far, the Department of Finance has issued \$51 million out of the \$54 million that was anticipated to be released for stimulus.

"We still have people that are filing their 2019 tax returns, and if they qualify for stimulus and have not received the stimulus, then they will be getting a stimulus check. All the way up to December of 2021, people can be qualified for stimulus," he said.

Atalig cited, as an example,

products in Guam, and given the urgency of the need, they "gave them a shot."

The governor's authorized representative, however, said that he is not involved in the negotiations of the contracts but was more involved in the logistics aspect, particularly in trying to get the supplies to the CNMI.

When asked who is responsible for the negotiations, he answered, "Quite frankly, it's the operation of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. That's their job to go out and procure services or get resources, respond to the emergency, so they would be responsible for doing it."

The investigation of the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding will continue today at 10am, with the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Finance on the panel, and at 2pm with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Congress wanted. ... The H2-B program is somewhat like that—a three-year break—three years then you cannot be renewed into the United States as an H2. I think that's what they want to do with the CW," he said.

When asked about how this touch-back provision would impact the CNMI, Sablan said due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI wouldn't be as devastated.

"If this were any other time, if we were on full board economy going, this would be troublesome, we would be devastated. With COVID-19, with the fact that we have an economy that is dwindling, and a lot of U.S. citizens unemployed today, it makes it very hard to justify CWs in this timeline. ... Right now, it's a blessing in disguise that we have COVID-19; this would be the silver lining," he said.

At the end of the day, Sablan said, it's still going to be troublesome to lose a large chunk of the CNMI workforce due to this new provision.

"It's troublesome that we're going to lose a big portion of our CW workforce for the period of time it takes to actually renew these individuals. We'll see how this plays out. At the end of the day, we don't know when the economy is going to start up again," he said.

17-year-olds in the CNMI who did not get any stimulus but could qualify next year. "By 2021, or tax year 2020, they can qualify for stimulus in their first time to file taxes. That's available for them."

Atalig assured that funding is available, and that should the number exceed the current money that the CNMI has been allocated with, that the Department of Finance only need to send a request to the IRS. "The IRS only requires that we submit a request for it and they will provide those funds for any eligible CNMI resident that is qualified for a stimulus check."

In the first batch of stimulus funding, the checks provided up to \$1,200 for every eligible individual, \$2,400 for joint returns, and \$500 for every qualifying child. For more information, or for issues on stimulus checks, email [stimulus@dof.gov.mp](mailto:stimulus@dof.gov.mp); call the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1067, 664-1000, or 664-1019; or visit the Department of Finance office at the Joeten-Dandan Building, Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

# US House passes permanent increase in conservation funding

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—A multi-year effort to increase the Land and Water Conservation Fund annual grant to the Marianas is one presidential signature away from completion. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Great American Outdoors Act providing a permanent source of funding for the LWCF. It means about \$800,000 annually for the Mar-

anas. The money can be used for public parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and beach recreation areas.

The Great American Outdoors Act also addresses long-overdue maintenance needs at parks managed by the National Park Service, including the American Memorial Park on Saipan. Over the next five years, \$9.5 billion will be allocated for

repairs at facilities run by the Park Service. American Memorial Park is on the agency's list for \$10.6 million in repairs.

Last year, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), the delegates from the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the resident commissioner from Puerto Rico all successfully worked

together to include a provision in the John J. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act to give each of their insular areas its own state-share of Land and Water Conservation Fund annual funding. Up to then the six areas split one state-share.

The permanent change in how funds were allocated increased the Marianas' an-

nual grant from \$75,000 to upwards of \$800,000.

But the source of money for the Land and Water Conservation Fund was not permanent.

The Great American Outdoors Act ends the uncertainty by locking in full funding of \$900 million annually for the LWCF from oil and gas revenues on federal lands and waters.

This means the Marianas state-share will now remain relatively constant at \$800,000.

The John Dingell Act also made permanent and expanded the Every Kid in a Park Program, which provides a one-year free pass to national parks, national forests, and national wildlife refuges for fourth-grade students and their families. Some 800 fourth graders in the Marianas have used the program to visit American Memorial Park. (PR)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Despite rains, extreme to exceptional drought continues

While showers have increased in the CNMI, rainfall remains below adequate on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. A wetter couple of weeks is expected across the CNMI as passing disturbances pass, bringing periods of scattered showers. Ten-day rainfall totals indicate around 3.5 inches of rainfall. Locally higher amounts are possible with thunderstorms.

In Guam, recent showers have maintained adequate or above-adequate rainfall that is expected to continue in the coming weeks.

A relatively wet pattern the last couple weeks characterized by weak surface troughs and disturbances to the north brought much needed rain-

fall to most locations across Micronesia. Drought conditions have eased a bit at most locations, but severe to extreme drought persists at Wotje, Utirik, and Kapingamarangi. Exceptional drought continues on Tinian and Saipan.

Showers have become more frequent across the Marianas but tend to be brief and limited in coverage, thus keeping accumulations low. Regional rainfall totals have been near or below adequate, for most locations, so far this month.

Officials across the CNMI report water levels are still above thresholds for concern. (PR)

### Guam PTAC webinars sets

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center

is offering free live webinars every *Thursday in August*. Webinars run from **10am-11:30am** and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

**■ July 30—Subcontracting**—Subcontracting is an important part of most government contracts. Subcontracting plans, limitations, and related FAR clauses will be discussed.

**■ Aug. 6 – Applying for a DUNS Number & Registering iSAM**—To sell your product or service to the Federal government, you need to get a DUNS number and register iSAM. These registrations pose unique challenges to Guam/CNMI based businesses. Tips

and solutions for these challenges will be discussed.

**■ Aug. 13 – Updating Your SBA Profile and Navigating the Dynamic Small Business Search**—Your SBA Profile is a great marketing tool. The Guam PTAC will show you how to setup and update your profile. The DSBS is SBA's database of small businesses. We will show you how to use it to help your company succeed in government contracting.

**■ Aug. 20—Federal Contract Opportunities**—Beta.sam.gov is the portal for federal contract opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to setup an account and how to use the search filters to ensure you do not miss any opportunities.

**■ Aug. 27—How to Get WomeOwned Small Busi-**

ness Certified—WOSB is now an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the new certification process as well as supporting document requirements.

Register on website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

### Chamoru commissiomeeting set

The Kumisió Fino' CHamoru yai Fina'nå'guei Historia yai Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno' (Commissioner CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its second monthly meeting on July 30, 2020, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm at the Guam Museum conference room, iHågåtna. Call Kumisiósecretary Roland

Blas for special accommodations and agenda at 480-4047 or email at [rolandblas1973@gmail.com](mailto:rolandblas1973@gmail.com). (PR)

### No banded snake eel in Guam waters

The Department of Agriculture's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources would like to remind beachgoers, divers, and snorkelers that there has never been a sea snake reported in Guam's waters. Guam does have a banded snake eel (*Myrichthys colubrinus*), which looks similar to a snake. The banded snake eel is neither venomous nor dangerous and it is not a cause for concern. If you have any questions about this or other marine organisms, call (671)735-0289/82/91/94 or email [fisheries@doag.guam.gov](mailto:fisheries@doag.guam.gov). (PR)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 20-034

Opening Date: March 18, 2020  
Closing Date: Until Filled

#### Safety Officer

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee, The Safety Officer complies with all occupational health and safety guidelines and ensures that Site Safety and Health Plan is prepared and implemented. Inspect work sites and review working conditions. Responsible for monitoring and assessing hazardous and unsafe situations and developing measures to assure personnel safety. Test workplaces for environmental hazards, such as exposure to radiation, chemical or biological hazards, or excessive noise. Verify availability or monitor use of safety equipment, such as hearing protection or respirators. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Update procedures and policies for new regulations or local ordinances. Supply, operate, or maintain personal protective equipment, ensure all personnel follow all personal safety precautions. Maintain all required environmental records and documentation. Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues/incidents and appropriate corrective actions. Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents. Performs safety related duties after hours, on weekends, and on holidays as needed. Stand-by on-call designation on alternating basis. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**LOCATION(S):** Administration/Safety Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$40,084.00 to \$54,113.00 Per annum, Exempt

**CONTRACT:** Two (2) years, subject to renewal

**POSITION(S):** One (1)

**Minimum Requirements:** Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Business or directly related field and 2 years of directly related experience; or High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and 6 years of directly related experience. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class. Position may require the following specialized licenses and certifications: Emergency Responder Certification, Hazmat and OSHA Certifications. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

You may submit your CUC Employment Application and resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org)

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Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131



## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Municipality of Saipan

P.O. Box 501457 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-6208 Fax: (670) 234-1190

### INVITATION TO BID (ITB NO. 20-001)

Pursuant to 10 CMC §§ 30401 – 30415, the Saipan Bingo Act of 2017, the Honorable David M. Apatang, Mayor, Municipality of Saipan, is issuing this Notice of Invitation to Bid for the operation of a sole bingo license in the Municipality of Saipan. The term of the sole bingo license shall be for a period of five years from the date it is issued. 10 CMC § 30406 (a). No person, company, sole proprietor, joint venture, or any type of organization, including non-profit and for profit, shall submit more than one bid.

The minimum bid for the sole bingo license shall be United States Dollars \$10,000.00. 10 CMC § 30409 (e). The successful bidder must pay the bid amount no later than twenty-four hours following bid award. 10 CMC § 30409 (e).

A non-refundable bid fee of USD\$200.00 must accompany each bid. 10 CMC § 30409 (c). Bids received without the non-refundable bid fee shall be rejected and shall not be considered. The bid fee must be in the form of United States Currency or Bank Cashier's Check. Checks must be made payable to the "Commonwealth Treasury" and have the notation "For Deposit to Business Unit 3064A, Office of the Mayor of Saipan." Personal or business checks will not be accepted.

A bid must be submitted on a Bid Application Form. A Bid Application Form is available at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, in the CTC Building, Suite A, 2799 Teer Drive, Oleai, Saipan. Interested bidders may pick up a form during regular government working hours, i.e., 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday, except on government holidays. Any bid submitted on a form other than that provided by the Office of the Mayor of Saipan will be rejected and not considered.

A bid must be sealed and submitted to the Office of the Mayor of Saipan at the above-stated address, no later than 10:00 a.m. on August 11, 2020. No bids will be accepted after 10:00 a.m. on August 11, 2020. All bids will be publicly opened and announced at 10:00 a.m. on August 12, 2020, at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, at the above-stated physical address. All dates and time indicated on this ITB are ChST.

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan reserves the right to reject any and all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Municipality of Saipan.

A bidder must refer to Saipan Bingo Act of 2017, codified at 10 CMC §§ 30401 – 30415, for requirements to be considered a qualified or eligible bidder. A bidder must include on a separate sheet/s a description of its company and documentary proof in support of the requirements as expressly set forth in the local law. A bidder is encouraged to read the Saipan Bingo Act of 2017 before submitting a bid to ensure bidder meets the requirements of eligibility and other requirements as set out in the local law.

For information, please visit the Office of the Mayor of Saipan or call (670) 234-6208 during regular government working hours, i.e., 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday, except on government holidays. Or email at [saiyanmayor@mos.gov.mp](mailto:saiyanmayor@mos.gov.mp).

/s/David M. Apatang  
Mayor, Municipality of Saipan

# Frequently asked questions: CNMI Long-Term Resident status

**O**n July 2, 2020, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services held a stakeholder engagement to provide information on CNMI long-term resident status. Below are the questions from that engagement.

**Q. There are several categories of aliens that may apply for CNMI long-term resident status, including certain individuals who were previously CNMI permanent residents under CNMI immigration law. We need further clarification on who CNMI permanent residents were.**

**A.** CNMI permanent residents are aliens who on Nov. 27, 2009, were permanent residents of the CNMI. These aliens should be able to present their permanent resident card issued by the CNMI government.

**Q. Are those guest workers who resided in the CNMI under commonwealth immigration law for at least five years before May 8, 2008, and who are presently residents under CW-1 status, considered CNMI permanent residents?**

**A. No.**

**Q. How does USCIS interpret Sec 2(B)(i) together with (iii)? Must an applicant be lawfully present either on one of the two dates (Dec. 21, 2019, and June 25, 2019) or continuously and lawfully present through June 25, 2019?**

**A.** The applicant needs to be continuously and lawfully present from Nov. 28, 2009, through June 25, 2019. This is like the “continuous residence” requirement where he or she must reside lawfully in the CNMI, but not have to be physically present in the CNMI on every day of that time period. However, the applicant must also be physically present in the CNMI on either Dec. 31, 2018, or June 25, 2019. There is no requirement to be physically present on both of those dates.

**Q. Is it true that only “parole and EAD holders” are qualified to apply for CNMI long-term resident status?**

**A. No.** The eligible classes for CNMI long-term resident status are:

- Certain “stateless” aliens;
- Immediate relatives of “stateless” aliens;
- CNMI permanent residents under CNMI immigration law;
- Immediate relatives of CNMI permanent residents;
- Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens; and
- Certain in-home caregivers.

**Q. One of the categories of aliens that may apply for CNMI long-term resident status are “immediate relatives of U.S. citizens: Individuals who, on Nov. 27, 2011, were either a spouse, child or parent of a U.S. citizen, and continue to have such family relationship with the citizen.” Would this mean that a parent of a U.S. citizen child**

**born after Nov. 27, 2011, will not be eligible, even if the parent has been lawfully and continuously working in the CNMI for more than 15 years and was never affected by the cap?**

**A.** Yes, the statute requires the parent/child relationship to have existed on Nov. 27, 2011, and continue to exist until the date they filed the Form I-955.

**Q. There are alien workers who have been in the CNMI earlier than 2009, and who have been issued umbrella permits and legally working under CW-1 status up to now, but do not have U.S. citizen child(ren). Are they qualified to apply for CNMI long-term resident status?**

**A.** There is no requirement to have a U.S. citizen child(ren) to qualify. Although one class of eligible aliens includes “immediate relatives of U.S. citizens,” you may be a spouse, child, or parent of a U.S. citizen. You may also qualify under any of the other classes—certain “stateless” aliens and their immediate relatives, CNMI permanent residents and their immediate relatives, and in-home caregivers.

**Q. If a person is in a CW-1 status, are they eligible to apply for CNMI long-term resident status given they meet all the requirements? And will they be eligible for an EAD also or is it just for those who are under parole/EAD status?**

**A.** Yes, a person with CW-1 status is eligible to apply for CNMI long-term resident status, given they meet all eligibility requirements. To request CNMI long-term resident status, a CW-1, like all other applicants must file Form I-955 and Form I-765. Generally, certain aliens who are in the U.S. use Form I-765 to request employment authorization and an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). However, they are not authorized to work while the initial Form I-955 is pending, unless they are already authorized for employment through previous parole status or under another status.

**Q. Can I still apply for CNMI long-term resident status if I have a CW1 application pending?**

**A. Yes.**

**Q. Will USCIS issue a receipt for Form I-955? We only received receipt notices for Form I-765.**

**A.** No. For receipting purposes, we treat Form I-955 as a supplement to Form I-765. Applicants receive a receipt notice for Form I-765, which will indicate the C37 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) category for CNMI long-term resident status.

**Q. Is there any specific period or processing time (for example, 30, 60 or 90 days) for the application of CNMI long-term resident status (Form I-955)?**

**A.** No, as this is a new application and status, USCIS does not have pro-

cessing times yet.

**Q. How long will be the adjudication process be for the EAD (Form I-765) if Form I- 955 is approved?**

**A.** We will adjudicate their Form I-765 at the same time as their Form I-955.

**Q. If a couple are both eligible for CNMI long-term resident status, should they both apply, or can either one of them apply?**

**A.** Both aliens need to apply.

**Q. I understand USCIS would issue the EAD only if the CNMI long-term resident status is approved. If USCIS denies the CNMI long-term resident status (Form I-955), are you still going to process Form I-765? Would USCIS return the EAD application and biometrics fee to the applicant?**

**A.** If we deny their Form I-955, we will also deny their Form I-765 because the applicant will not be eligible for the EAD category requested (C37). We will not return the application and biometrics fees to the applicant.

**Q. If an applicant wants to withdraw a submitted CNMI long-term resident status application, what would be the required steps to take?**

**A.** An applicant may withdraw a CNMI long-term resident status application by making a written withdrawal request to the Guam Field Office. The applicant should sign the request and include their name, A-Number, and a receipt notice for the I-765, which will indicate the C37 Employment Authorization Document category for CNMI long-term resident status. However, withdrawals are final and we will terminate any further adjudicative action on the application.

**Q. If an applicant is granted CNMI long-term resident status, can they file a petition for their spouse?**

**A.** No. While immediate relatives of CNMI permanent residents are eligible for CNMI long-term resident status, the spouse will need to apply for the status individually.

**Q. My wife and I already applied for the CNMI long-term resident status. We have two minor non-U.S. citizen children who are present in the CNMI on a CW-2 visa. What would be the status of my minor children or under what visa should we apply for them if we get approved for the CNMI long-term resident status?**

**A.** Such individuals will need to be independently eligible for and apply for long-term resident status.

**Q. There are many families in which one family member (usually mother or father) is eligible for CNMI long-term resident status and the other is not. Is there any relief for these spouses?**

**A.** The long-term resident program does not allow for derivatives

(family members).

**Q. There are families where some of the children are U.S. citizens by virtue of having been born in the CNMI, but there are older siblings who were born in the home country of the parents and are citizens of that country. The status of these foreign-born children is often CW-2. If the qualifying parent obtains CNMI long-term resident status, what happens to the foreign-born minor children?**

**A.** The long-term resident program does not allow for derivatives (family members).

**Q. In 2017, many CWs were capped due to the gross underestimated need for them. Congress had to increase the cap. How is this residence gap going to affect the CWs if they apply for CNMI long-term resident status? A gap that was not their fault?**

**A.** Applicants must show, among other things, that they maintained continuous and lawful residence in the CNMI from Nov. 28, 2009, through June 25, 2019.

We will not consider an applicant to have failed to maintain continuous residence by reason of a brief, casual and innocent absence, or due merely to a brief temporary trip abroad required by emergency or extenuating circumstances outside their control. We consider an absence as “a brief, casual, and innocent absence” if:

■ The absence was short and reasonably calculated to accomplish the purpose for the absence;

■ The absence was not because of an order of exclusion, deportation, or removal;

■ The absence was not because of an order of voluntary departure or an administrative

■ grant of voluntary departure before you were placed in exclusion, deportation, or

■ removal proceedings; and

■ The purpose of the absence and/or the applicant’s actions while outside of the CNMI were not contrary to law.

Form I-955 lists several types of documents that applicants may submit to establish continuous residence, but that list is not exclusive or exhaustive.

**Q. If the employee is in the Philippines to process a renewal of a CW visa, and was affected by COVID-19, are they still eligible to apply while in the Philippines?**

**A.** The employee is eligible to file the application while abroad, as long as they meet all other eligibility requirements (including being physically present in the CNMI on June 25, 2019, or on Dec. 31, 2018) and continuous lawful residence from Nov. 28, 2019, through June 25, 2019. However, us approving Form I-955 and Form I-765 is not a “visa” and there is no consular processing to obtain long-term resident status at a U.S. Consulate.

**Q. If the CW-1 is categorized un-**

**der the touchback due to the gap between year 2015 - 2017 but was in CNMI since year 2000 with a U.S. citizen child, is the CW-1 still eligible to apply for long-term residency status?**

**A.** It depends on a number of factors, including on the period of time spent outside of the United States, and whether the parent-child relationship existed as of Nov. 27, 2011.

**Q. Assuming an alien worker (CW-1) has a pending CNMI long-term resident status application and their CW-1 expires before the decision of the Form I-955 and Form I- 765 is received, how long is the alien worker allowed to stay in the CNMI after the CW-1 expiration?**

**A.** The alien is not allowed to stay in the CNMI after the CW-1 expiration, assuming they have no other legal status (or parole), even if he or she is waiting for a decision on their long-term residence application. Having a pending Form I-955 or Form I-765, by itself, does not allow an alien to stay legally in the CNMI. However, please note that we will not consider an applicant with pending Forms I-955 and I-765 to accrue unlawful presence for purposes of inadmissibility (which is still not to say that he or she can legally stay or work in the U.S.). If we deny their Forms I-955 and I-765 and the alien has no other legal status or parole, then unlawful presence will start accruing.

**Q. If an employee gets an approval and has not received an EAD by the time their CW-1 is expired (9/30/2020) will they need to exit the CNMI?**

**A.** In general, an employee will get the approval notice for CNMI long-term resident status at the same time he or she receives the EAD. But if an employee does not get the approval/EAD before their CW-1 is expired, and he or she has no other valid status or parole, then he or she is not legally allowed to stay or work in the CNMI.

**Q. If an employee’s application is in process or has been received, will they need to exit the CNMI if their current work status expires?**

**A.** Having a pending Form I-955 or Form I-765, by itself, does not allow an alien to stay legally in the CNMI. If an alien does not have legal status or parole, even though he or she has a pending application, then he or she is not legally allowed to stay in the CNMI.

**Q. If a CW-1 has applied for CNMI long-term resident status, but is also categorized under the CW touchback, does the CW1 need to exit the CNMI even if they already applied for CNMI long-term resident status?**

**A.** The CW-1 should continue to maintain status, or he/she should exit the CNMI if subject to the touchback provision. Having a pending Form I-955 or Form I-765, by itself, does not allow an alien to stay legally in the CNMI. (PR)

# CUC board OKs transfer of \$1.86M for power projects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_deletorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors approved Friday CUC management's request for the transfer of \$1.86 million from its restricted account to non-restricted account for power generation projects.

CUC board chair Miranda V. Manglona, directors Matthew Holley, and Jovita Paulino, and Commonwealth Development Authority board chair Ignacio Perez approved the request during the board's special meeting at the CUC's

## » Only \$2.2M left from \$12M restricted account intended to replace power engine 8

conference room in Dandan Friday.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho briefly explained the need for the additional funding and let CUC power plant senior engineer Bradley Neuse hold a presentation about the projects.

Neuse said the additional

funding is needed to address unanticipated and urgent power generation costs, including ongoing engine overhauls, engine repairs, and emergency power supply. "The goal of this funding is to continue critical repairs to ensure adequate power reserve capacity is maintained throughout the ongoing and upcoming engine overhauls and repairs," he said.

Out of the originally approved \$7.3-million funding, \$6.87 million has already been spent for engine overhauls and repairs, leaving a balance of \$430,000, Neuse said.

Bradley said \$1.86 million is needed because of the emergency costs that is worth \$2.29 million: \$560,000 in additional engine overhaul costs, \$100,000 for engine one temporary foundation repair, \$670,000 for engine one permanent foundation repair, and \$957,000 for Aggreko Power rental extension.

Bradley said the approval of the additional \$1.86 million would eliminate CUC's

dependency on Aggreko and increase engine redundancy, power generation, and power reserve capacity.

In a later interview, Camacho said the power generation division did a wonderful job in preparing the plans for the next six months and to see the board of directors supporting them.

Camacho said the restricted account is specifically intended to replace power engine number eight, but the idea

is CUC is going to replenish that account as more revenues come in.

Last January, the CUC board approved CUC management's request for the transfer of \$1.3 million needed to pay Aggreko for a 90-day extension on top of the original \$1.5-million 90-day contract for a temporary electric power supply while CUC's generator engines are down for overhaul and repair.

The CNMI Department of Labor is inviting all existing and potential Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation claimants to attend a community outreach event at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center tomorrow, July 29, 2020, from 9am to 4pm.

The following services will be provided by CNMI DOL during the event:

1. Disseminating and receiving initial and weekly ap-



Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Miranda V. Manglona, extreme right, presides over a special meeting Friday, in which the board approved CUC management's request to transfer \$1.86 million from its restricted account to a non-restricted account for power generation projects.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

plications.

2. Providing general assistance with filling out applications.

3. Providing claims information (e.g., status of claims).

4. Answering general inquiries about the program (e.g., eligibility requirements).

To ensure the safety of the public and CNMI DOL staff, the following COVID-19 precautionary measures will be strictly enforced during the event:

■ social distancing of 6 feet or more

- facial masks or coverings
- temperature checks

In addition, only a limited number will be allowed to enter the Multi-Purpose Center for assistance at once. All remaining individuals will have to remain outside the center until called to enter the building. The CNMI Department of Labor will continue to conduct more community outreach events in the coming weeks, and a schedule will be announced shortly.

### Important notice

If you are ill or think you have

The board approved the transfer of \$1.3 million from CUC's restricted account to unrestricted account for use to extend the Aggreko's contract and also to install a fuel pipeline.

With the board's January decision, the board at the time had already released a total of \$7.3 million for the emergency repair and overhaul of power engines at Power Plant 1 and to pay Aggreko.

Last November, the board approved the release of \$6 million from CUC's \$12 million restricted account. The \$6 million was intended for the \$1.5-million 90-day contract with Aggreko; \$300,000 repair of engine No. 6; \$2 million for overhaul of power engine No. 5; and \$2 million for the overhaul of power engine No. 7.

CUC's original plan was, once the Federal Emergency Management Agency reimburses CUC, that \$6 million taken from the restricted account will be replenished and that any used funds from that amount will also be returned to the restricted account.

## Community outreach for assistance with PUA/FPUC claims

The CNMI Department of Labor is inviting all existing and potential Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation claimants to attend a community outreach event at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center tomorrow, July 29, 2020, from 9am to 4pm.

The following services will be provided by CNMI DOL during the event:

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plications.

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4. Answering general inquiries about the program (e.g., eligibility requirements).

To ensure the safety of the public and CNMI DOL staff, the following COVID-19 precautionary measures will be strictly enforced during the event:

■ social distancing of 6 feet or more

symptoms of COVID-19, do not come to the event. For PUA/FPUC assistance, contact CNMI DOL at the following numbers: (670) 989-9080/81/83/84/89/90, or send an email to info@puamarianas.com. (PR)

### CHARLENE MANGLONA LIZAMA VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Commercial Cleaner - High School Diploma and at least 2 years work experience. salary \$7.69 to \$7.80 per hr. Interested applicants please call 287-3223 email:vicelizama@yahoo.com

### BE TO CORPORATION JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Sales Manager (Saipan, MP)

Maintain responsibility for performance of all sales activities within an assigned territory; Establish and strategically build a solid customer base; Analyze the sales process in an effort to refine and improve its success and establish sales reporting framework; Achieve the highest levels of customer satisfaction with all customer interaction. Req: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration; Must have taken a course of "Strategic Management" and "Business Finance". Send Resume & Transcript to BE TO CORPORATION. ATTN: Young Ki LEE, P.O.BOX 7670 SVRB Saipan, MP 96950.



### Employment Opportunities

**Greenskeeper Supervisor:** Must have 3 to 5 years-experience at a golf course with supervisory experience. You must be knowledgeable in maintaining greens, also dependable and able to motivate a crew. Also, scheduling and issuing daily assignments. Salary negotiated with experience.

**Accounting Clerk** also needed.

These positions include health and vacation benefits and increase after a 90-day probationary period. US citizens only.

**To apply:** Drop off résumé at the accounting office of Saipan Vegas Resort (next to McDonald's Middle Rd) Office located at the left side of property (white house with blue trim).

### PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



### INVITATION TO BID ADDENDUM NO. 1 ITB20-COTA/FTA-088

### "PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF EIGHT (8) MEDIUM-DUTY LOW FLOOR 2020 OR NEWER ADA ACCESSIBLE BUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

July 27, 2020

This Addendum is issued to amend the title of ITB20-COTA/FTA-088 and to include the deadline for responses to all questions/clarifications.

➤ Purchase and Delivery of Eight (8) Medium-Duty Low Floor 2020 or Newer ADA Accessible Bus for the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is **changed to read** Purchase and Delivery of Eight (8) Medium-Duty Low Floor 2020 or Newer ADA Accessible **Buses** for the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority.

➤ To include: Responses to all questions regarding ITB20-COTA/FTA-088 will be made by the CNMI Government by 10:00 a.m., Chamorro Standard Time, July 30, 2020. Questions and answers shall be shared with all bidders.

### THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO  
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

## Heavy rainfall seen until Thursday

Locally heavy rainfall is possible through Thursday, based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyian, Guam.

According to a CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, a series of trade-wind troughs, combined with divergent winds aloft, is expected to produce showers and thunderstorms across the Marianas over the next few days. Occasional heavy showers are expected to continue at times through Thursday. Latest model guidance indicates rainfall amounts ranging from 2 to 4 inches during the week,

This developing situation will continue to be monitored closely over the next few days. If conditions warrant, this outlook will be updated daily until the threat is no longer present, or watches, advisories or warnings are issued.

The public is advised that localized flooding will be possible in low-lying and poor drainage areas. Check storm drains in your area to make sure they are not clogged. If planning anything outdoors next week, have a backup plan in place. (PR)

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## EDITORIAL

### Rein in the federal force run amok on Portland's streets

In a stunning overreach, President Donald Trump's administration ordered federal agents to police Portland and Chicago protests. This perversion of the federal duty to provide help and stability has provoked righteous anger.

Federal protection of the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse is Portland is defensible. Sending Homeland Security Department agents into city streets to use brutal tactics veers into dystopian governance.

Policing greater Portland is a matter for local government, where citizens can hold leaders directly accountable for tactics and decisions. The DHS has no role using force within an American city where local and state officials do not want the intervention.

Yet, federal agents remain on the scene. Results have included "the heavy-handed use of tear gas, impact munitions and batons" as described by The Oregonian. A court filing by protester Mark Pettibone details how "men in green military fatigues and adorned with generic 'police' patches jumped out of an unmarked minivan" and snatched him into custody without explanation. He had been walking home peacefully after a Black Lives Matter demonstration, he wrote.

These federal actions sabotaged attempts to restore peace. Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, who filed suit asking a federal judge to intervene, took her plea to President Donald Trump via Twitter Monday:

"The presence of your federal agents has made things significantly worse," she wrote, "including causing the greatest injuries so far. Thanks, but no thanks!"

Seattleites should watch this shocking situation warily. Trump himself claimed two weeks ago he had threatened Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan with a similar intervention. Plans to dispatch agents into other cities "run by very liberal Democrats"—Trump's words—appear underway. The Chicago Tribune reported that 150 Homeland Security agents were Chicago-bound.

These deployments must be stopped. Federal courts must forbid tactics that violate Constitutional rights. The U.S. Senate must demand that acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf—in his job since November—face confirmation hearings. If Wolf believes his actions are justified, let him defend them before the nation.

Without accountability, the brutality happening in Portland may explode into still more violence.

(c)2020 The Seattle Times



### Preventing family fights through a personal-property memorandum

When writing a will or revocable living trust, most folks focus on cash, land, and other investments. And with good reason. But after you're gone, the hottest fights frequently focus not on these big-ticket items but rather on mementos, keepsakes, and other heirlooms—in short, personal property.

Why is that? For several reasons, some good and some not so good. On the sunny side, personal property often has sentimental value. Maybe dad taught you how to golf, so his clubs remind you of the hours that you spent on the golf course with him. Or perhaps a particular set of dishes were always used on special family occasions, memories you want to remember and a tradition you want to carry forward. On the darker side of things, personal property has a nasty habit of wandering off shortly after someone passes away either through out-and-out theft or because the taker believed that mom or dad would have wanted them to have the thing.

What is common about all of these scenarios is the risk of family conflict, especially for bigger families. For example, maybe dad taught all of your siblings to golf, so the clubs have sentimental value to everyone. Or maybe the clubs are now collector's items, so one or more siblings want to cash them in rather than keeping them. And the same problems for the special dish set.

Bottom line: The more people involved, the more opportunities for things to go wrong. And whatever wrong that happens will cause especially hard feelings precisely because the situation is so sensitive.

Fortunately, you don't have to plant seeds of conflict waiting to bloom after you die. You can instead leave your family with the gift of peace. The trick is to have a properly written estate plan.

Part of that plan normally will be a personal property memorandum, which is a stand-alone document saying what happens to your personal property such as jewelry, furniture, art, electronics, and collectibles. The memorandum is then expressly incorporated into your will or living revocable trust (depending on whether you've elected to use a will-centered estate plan or a trust-centered estate plan).

At this point you may be wondering why not just list the property in the will or trust? Why should I create an extra document that I might lose later? Good questions. And the answer is that a personal property memorandum is cheaper and faster to amend than a will or trust, so using a memorandum will normally save

#### FINE PRINT

**By JORDAN SUNDELL**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!



you money since people regularly update how they want to give away their personal property.

To see how, let's compare the process of amending your will versus amending a personal property memorandum. If you make a list, etch it into your will or trust, and then want to change it, you'll need to formally amend the will or trust. That process generally means calling up your lawyer, having them edit the will or trust, and then re-executing the will or trust with all the same formalities as the original. By contrast, if you use a personal property memorandum, then you can simply rip up the old memorandum and replace it with the current one. No lawyer, and no delays. But with that said, it's usually a good idea to have the new memorandum signed, notarized, and witnessed to be on the safe side.

Once you have a personal property memorandum, it's generally wise to make sure that your family has access to it. Sure, giving the document to your heirs can cause some heartburn if they dislike how the property has been divvied up. But, first, it's better to have those conversations while you are alive and can talk it through rather than waiting until after you've died, at which point it's too late to clear up misunderstandings and address hard feelings. And, second, the memorandum is useless unless it can be found quickly because most wills and trusts have language presuming that if a memorandum is not found within 60 days of your passing, then no memorandum exists. All that hard work down the drain.

In addition to making sure the memorandum is found in time, *See PREVENTING on Next Page*

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

# Solutions? Here are some ideas

## Last of two parts

*Editor's Note: Continued from yesterday's publication of the first part.*

**A**nother solution is to immediately stop any overtime or double pay that is being paid out to your Cabinet members. You initially said that none of your Cabinet members got paid, but as it turned out, they in fact did. Just put an end to it. The late governor Eloy Inos did not pay out any overtime to Cabinet members after Super Typhoon Soudelor and, come to think of it, neither did former governor Benigno Fitial, because they both knew Cabinet members were ineligible for overtime based on their NOPA and contracts and also on Commonwealth law. Please understand that moving boxes or writing additional speeches does not constitute or validate overtime and double pay. Check with Attorney General Edward Manibusan and read his nine-page opinion on overtime, and also check with the Office of the Public Auditor. What you need to try and understand is the fact that Cabinet members are already paid at least double of what front-line workers make, so it does not make sense to be paying them additional money at a time when the CNMI is broke. And if they are not satisfied with their current salary, they can always resign. There are hundreds of qualified furloughed employees ready and willing to take their place, many of whom have degrees and credentials and the qualifications to lead. Just a suggestion.

Other solutions include:

■ Be consistent with the COVID testing and to listen to the experts at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. If they say that all passengers should be tested upon arrival and on the fifth day and that they undergo mandatory quarantine for those five days, then don't change it, even if you are being pressured. Yes, we do want to eventually open up tourism again, but it must be done in a safe manner that will not risk the lives of our people.

■ Let the Marianas Visitors Authority do its own marketing to tourists while you focus on this tourism timeout to initiate and spearhead the cleanup and beautification at all our tourist sites, from cleaning public restrooms to repainting graffiti and fixing broken safety rails. Also, please ensure that we put up signs in different languages for dangerous tourist spots so that locals and tourists are aware of high-risk areas. Under your leadership, all of this can be done in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and the Office of the Mayor and volunteers.

■ Illegal dumping and litter is at an all-time high right now. Consider waiving the tipping fee during this pandemic and encourage people to dump their trash at the transfer station instead of illegally dumping their trash to avoid the tipping fees. Some people will claim that the tipping fee is only a few dollars, but if you don't have any income, you probably do not have money to pay the tipping fee. Offer incentives for those who do throw their trash at the transfer station and see if companies that are doing well in this pandemic would be willing to sponsor some of the prizes to help incentivize proper disposal of trash. We have

## PREVENTING

*From Page 8*

it's generally a good idea to plan for a couple of other contingencies: An heir dying before you, and what to do with personal property that didn't make it into the memorandum. In case of an heir dying first, the most common route is for the property to go to the heir's kids or, if there are no kids, to the other heirs. But you're free to make other arrangements. For personal property that didn't make it to the memorandum, it can be swept into the will or trust. Or you can have the heirs follow a procedure for who gets what such as by having them draw straws and then pick in order until everything has been distributed. But, again, it's useful to decide an advance.

All of this may seem like a pain (because it is). And to be sure, you don't have to do it. But having no plan sets the stage for unnecessary and often bitter family battles. So, if you would prefer your passing to produce familial peace rather than war, develop a plan with a competent estate planner.

*This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.*

tried raising and lowering litter fines and it so far has not done anything, so let's pitch a different alternative together.

■ Work with the Northern Marianas College- Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services and local farmers and gardeners in promoting and teaching how to grow some food crops that are relatively easy to grow. It may not solve the food shortage, but it will help families cut some food costs while learning how to grow food. Rainy season is upon us and is an opportune time to plant.

■ Reopen the Northern Marianas Technical Institute with the CW fees that were intended for them. A trade school is needed here. There is a huge shortage of plumbers, electricians, carpenters, and other skilled workers in the vocational trades industry.

■ Lobby for support of House Bill 21-76, to return the \$15 million annual casino license fee back to the retirees. In the 20th Legislature, it was Rep. BJ Attao, Vinnie Sablan, Ed Villagomez, and myself who voted against former representative Angel Demapan's H.B. 20-99, which became Public Law 20-10 and took away the \$15 million annual casino license fee from retirees. Please talk to your chief of staff Angel Demapan and ask him to lobby for this bill as well that passed the House and is now in the Senate, so that retirees will once again benefit from the casino license fee.

■ Talk to some of your Cabinet members and tell them to lead with some humility. Humility begins at the top and it is up to you to set the tone and to ensure bullying and ad hominem attacks have no place in your administration. Kindness and humility goes a long way in building relationships.

■ Review the furloughed employee list and reinstate those who were unfairly selected because Civil Service rules and regulations were not followed. If a furloughed employee has seniority, exemplary performance, good attendance, and credentials,

**By EDWIN K. PROPST**

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



*Edwin K. Propst is a member of the House of Representatives in the CNMI Legislature.*

then what reason were they furloughed, because "loyalty" cannot be used as a reason to furlough an employee.

■ Be more accessible. You can start by doing live press releases and interviews on social media and answer questions from your constituents. Your constituents would appreciate hearing from you rather than your press secretary or political adviser.

■ Review and consider renewing the Hyatt Regency Saipan lease already. You already had its neighbor, the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan lease renewed. Why not Hyatt? If tourism is so important to you, do you not know how bad losing the Hyatt brand will be for the CNMI? This could have a devastating impact on all hotels in the Commonwealth.

■ Please include the minority bloc in your meetings. The late governor Eloy Inos made it a point to include the minority members during emergency meetings, especially when there were disagreements on policy. He ensured everyone had a seat at the table and listened to everyone. Due to the fact we are still in a pandemic, please allow all members to teleconference in as well.

I hope you take my suggestions or possible solutions to heart, and I apologize if I offended you. Wishing you and your family good health and safety during these most trying of times.

# Ominous days ahead for post office

**A** strange thing happened last week. The mail didn't arrive. In a world beset by climate change, racial injustice and a pandemic, the failure of my letter carrier to swiftly complete his appointed rounds is a minor disappointment.

Besides, like most Americans, I communicate largely via email. It's immediate. Messages depart at the speed of light, and responses pop up in my inbox with extraordinary efficiency.

Nevertheless, a couple of times a week I roll a sheet of paper into a classic Underwood Touch-Master Five and hammer out an old-fashioned typewritten letter to a few acquaintances who value such an artifact. It's a pleasant, nostalgic ritual that includes affixing a stamp, depositing the letter in my curbside mailbox and raising the red metal flag to signal my letter carrier that mail is ready for pickup.

One day last week the red flag stayed up all day and the letter, alas, went out a day late, a minor departure from the post office's ordinarily reliable service.

But before we dismiss the incident too readily, let's note that President Donald Trump appears currently to be renewing an attack on the U.S. Postal Service that began in 2018. In December of that year, a Trump task force recommended partial privatization of the Postal Service, reductions in services and increases in postage rates. Some post offices, particularly in rural communities, would be closed and delivery service could be reduced from six days per week to five or fewer.

For the most part, these recommendations have not been implemented, but recently Trump took on the post office again, calling it a "joke" and threatening to withhold coronavirus stimulus support unless the agency quadruples its package delivery rates for online companies, particularly Amazon.

The fact that Trump deeply misunderstands the Postal Service—it actually makes money by delivering for Amazon—doesn't mean that he can't do enormous damage to one of our most important and estimable government services.

In May Trump appointed a new Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, a prominent donor and fundraiser for Trump and the Republican Party. DeJoy has no postal experience, but he is moving quickly to modify postal practices. Last week letter carriers around the country were lectured on new delivery policies: Every stage of the delivery process will begin at a set time, which means an end to the "every piece, every day" principle that has guided postal

**By JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service



*John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at [jcrispcolumns@gmail.com](mailto:jcrispcolumns@gmail.com).*

delivery for years. Some mail will be left behind and delivered the next day.

Furthermore, there will be no more overtime pay. And one carrier reports that she was told that no substitutes will be provided for carriers who are ill; if the carrier isn't available, the mail won't move that day. And last week neither did my quaint typewritten letter.

Trump isn't the first to turn the agency into a target. The Postal Service has long served as a convenient whipping boy for conservatives annoyed by the idea that government is able to provide a service that is effective, efficient and beloved by the citizenry. They reject the idea that every government service need not produce a profit.

But Trump, for whom profit is everything, is uniquely unsuited to understand that some services are more essentially American because they provide the same egalitarian benefits to every citizen for the same economical price. Since 1755, no service has done more to democratize and unify the nation than the post office.

Further, Trump has never shied away from allowing personal concerns to interfere with policy. His focus on penalizing Amazon seems to reflect his antipathy toward its founder, Jeff Bezos, who owns the Washington Post. And his current attack on the Postal Service probably stems partially from Trump's idea that an effective system for voting by mail will hurt his chances for re-election.

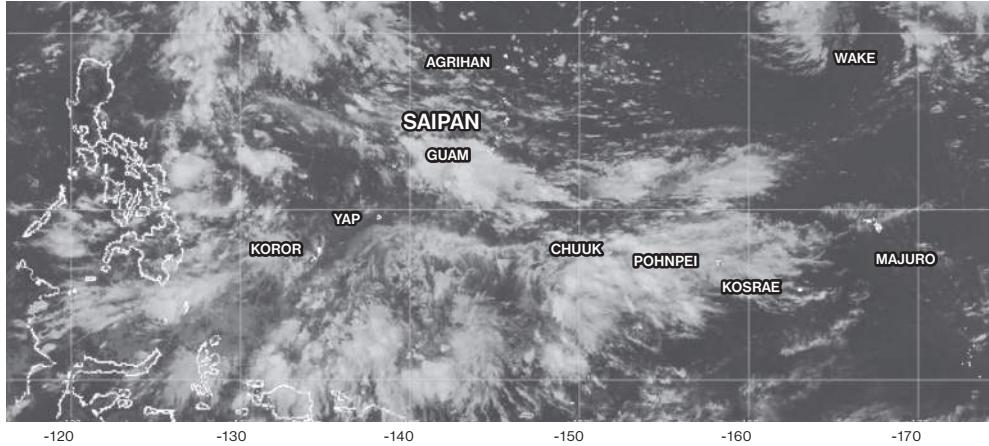
All of this makes my missed mail delivery last week seem a little more ominous. Trump can do a lot of damage to the country in the next four months. May the post office not become another one of the things that we really used to like about America.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph turning southeast Tuesday.	Cloudy with numerous locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
90°	79°	90°	79°	90°
79°	90°	79°	90°	79°
89°	89°	89°	89°	78°

### YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 6:32 AM, MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few heavy showers are seen across the Marianas early this morning with scattered showers approaching just to the east of the islands. The Marianas are wedged between surface troughs to the east and west, with a northwest-southeast-oriented upper-level trough slowly dropping south over the far northern Marianas. Latest scatterometry data show moderate winds across the area with buoys indicating 3 to 5 foot seas in regional waters.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)*

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available,

- able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp), follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA		
	▲	▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 76°
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:02 AM	12:54 PM
Wednesday	-	12:48 AM	1:53 PM
Thursday	-	1:36 AM	2:52 PM
Friday	-	2:28 AM	3:52 PM
Saturday	-	3:23 AM	4:50 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		
	▲	▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 50°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	88° / 68°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	92° / 72°
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
New York	Cloudy	85° / 73°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	91° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	90° / 81°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 72°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 71°
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 57°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	86° / 73°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
01:19 AM	LOW TIDE	2.14
8:23 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.53
2:31 PM	LOW TIDE	1.67
7:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.03

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 117 7:30AM 8:10AM 1,4,6				UA 174 5:50AM 6:30AM 1,4,6			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO GUAM				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2109			

# Business



## Pajukol Korean Restaurant:

### Traditional Korean flavor

By BEA CABRERA  
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CORRESPONDENT

Pajukol Korean Restaurant has been one of the longest running businesses on Saipan. Serving traditional Korean

dishes with authentic flavor for more than 20 years now, owner Kuen Lee said they owe the restaurant's success and longevity to the patronage of the local community.

"Even if business is slow

because of the COVID-19 pandemic, local people are still coming in to taste the food we serve and this makes me happy... Our first location was in San Antonio and after 23 years, we decided to move to Garapan in October last year because many locals love to go to Garapan to eat," she said.

"Our business is always expanding because of the local patronage and I am happy to be in the restaurant business on Saipan. We do not depend a lot on tourists because majority of our customers are locals who have become friends and we treat each other like family," she added.

Pajukol is a district in Seoul, South Korea where Lee was

Pajukol Korean Restaurant is located along Asusena St. in Garapan.

born and raised. "Saipan is my home now and we named the restaurant Pajukol to remind me of my hometown. This way, it feels like I brought my first home to my new home, Saipan," she said.

"Pajukol's specialties include fresh sashimi and traditional Korean food. I make my own spices and flavor added to the dish like the Korean traditional way and we also get imported ingredients from Korea," she added.

Pajukol Korean Restaurant has over 20 Korean dishes that customers can enjoy. Popular dishes include Korean beef bulgogi made of quality strips of beef and marinated in a special sauce that aims to wake up



BEA CABRERA  
Pajukol Korean Restaurant owner Kuen Lee considers Saipan her second home and serving Korean dishes is akin to sharing her culture and traditions to locals.



BEA CABRERA  
Pajukol Korean Restaurant serves traditional Korean food that is right on the budget and does not fall short in quantity and flavor.

the taste buds. You can eat it with rice or with lettuce wraps. For something hearty and nourishing, galbitang Korean beef short ribs delivers with full flavor and soothing clear soup. Spicy squid is also a popular dish order where customers get that sweet and tangy flavor with freshly boiled squid and paired with vegetables.

"In terms of safety, we follow guidelines such as taking temperature of all customers, asking them to write their names and phone numbers, our floors have markings, and

we follow social distancing with the arrangement of our tables and chairs," Lee said.

"I tell our customers to 'ganghaedi ja!' which means 'be strong' especially at this time of the pandemic. I want customers to feel nourished after eating at Pajukol and saying be strong is an encouragement that goes a long way," Lee said.

Pajukol Korean Restaurant is located along Asusena Avenue in Garapan. They are open from Monday to Sunday 11am to 9pm. For more information, call (670) 235-0200.

### Virus spike in Spain prompts UK, France to warn off tourists

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Nightclubs, bars and beaches—some of Spain's most beloved summer venues—are facing new lockdown restrictions after turning into coronavirus hot spots, and some European nations are warning citizens not to visit the country.

The northeast regions of Catalonia and Aragón host the three most worrying virus clusters in Spain, prompting authorities to tighten restrictions in Barcelona, in a rural area around Lleida and in Zaragoza that were relaxed only a month ago when Spain had its devastating outbreak in check.

Britain put Spain back on its unsafe list beginning Sunday, announcing hours earlier that travelers arriving in the U.K. from Spain must now quarantine for 14 days. Norway also

ordered a 10-day quarantine for those returning from the Iberian Peninsula. France and Belgium are recommending that travelers ditch plans to spend their summer vacations in Barcelona and its nearby beaches, which have seen crowds too massive to allow for social distancing.

Tui, the UK's biggest tour operator, said Sunday it had cancelled all flights due to depart to mainland Spain until Aug. 9, but it has maintained flights and travel packages for trips to Spain's Balearic and Canary Islands.

Travelers were caught off guard by Britain's move—even U.K. Transport Minister Grant Shapps is on holiday in Spain.

"I think that it is extreme. If you only come for one day, no way," José González, a Spaniard heading to his home in

London, said at Madrid's airport. "We will have to see what happens next. We will have to respect it and that's that. You can't do anything else."

Spain reported over 900 new daily infections on Thursday and Friday as authorities warned that the country which lost at least 28,400 lives before getting its outbreak under control could be facing the start of a second major onslaught.

Catalonia ordered all night-life venues to close for 15 days and applied a midnight curfew on bars in and around Barcelona and Lleida, hours after French Prime Minister Jean Castex urged French citizens not to visit Catalonia due to the upticks in new infections.

"If we see that the growth of contagion is exponential,

then the only way to stop it is to limit free movement," said Catalonia public health chief Josep Maria Argimon.

Catalonia's regional government, run by separatists who had complained about Spain's centralization of the health crisis from March to June, is struggling to tamp down on the growing clusters that have overwhelmed Spain's undermanned contact tracing teams.

Tourism employs 2.6 million people in Spain and generates 12% of the country's economic activity. Spain's government, unions and industry leaders are heavily invested in promoting the message that Spain is a safe destination for foreigners to salvage the 2020 tourism season. That now looks more like wishful thinking.

### White House, Senate GOP try again on \$1 trillion virus aid

WASHINGTON (AP)—Suggesting a narrower pandemic relief package may be all that's possible, the White House still pushed ahead with Monday's planned rollout of the Senate Republicans' \$1 trillion effort as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi assailed the GOP "disarray" as time-wasting during the crisis.

The administration's chief negotiators — White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin — spent the weekend on Capitol Hill to put what Meadows described as "final touches" on the relief bill Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is expected to bring forward Monday afternoon.

"We're done," Mnuchin said as he and Meadows left Capitol Hill on Sunday after meeting with GOP staff.

But looming deadlines may force them to consider other options. By Friday, millions of out-of-work Americans will lose an \$600 federal unemployment benefit that is expiring and federal eviction protections for many renters are also coming to an end.

President Donald Trump's standing is at one of the lowest points of his term, according to a new AP-NORC poll.

"They're in disarray and that delay is causing suffering for America's families," Pelosi said.

Pelosi panned the Trump administration's desire to trim the \$600 weekly unemployment boost to about 70% of pre-pandemic wages. She also said she opposes tackling a relief package in piecemeal fashion.

With the virus death toll climbing and 4.2 million infections nationwide, the administration officials converged on the Capitol to revive the Republican package that unraveled last week. Republican senators and the White House are at odds over various items, including how to cutback the jobless benefit without fully doing away with it.

Meadows said as the White House was "looking for clarity" on a "handful" of remaining issues with Republicans, but they had yet to talk to McConnell. "We have an agreement in principle," he said.

# Nation

## Amid virus, uncertainty, parents decide how to school kids

Joshua Claybourn is leaning toward sending his kindergarten daughter to in-person classes at a private school next month. Holly Davis' sixth-grade daughter will learn online, though the family has not yet decided what to do for school for a teenage daughter who requires special accommodations for hearing problems and dyslexia and another who's starting college.

As they decide how their children will learn this fall amid the coronavirus pandemic, parents are anxiously weighing the benefits of in-person instruction against the risks that schools could shut their doors again or that their children could contract the virus and pass it on.

"To say we are stressed might be an understatement," said Davis, of Zionsville, Indiana, whose family is self-isolating after one of their daughters was exposed to COVID-19 at a cross country meet. "We're being forced to make impossible decisions."

Across the country, chaos and disarray have marked the start of the school year as families await directives from district officials and, where they have a choice, make agonizing decisions over whether to enroll their children online or in person—often with very little guidance.

If their kids are not in classrooms, parents will have to line up child care—or find the time to help them learn online. They have no idea if it will be safe to send their children to school—or whether the school doors will open at all or stay



AP  
Wearing a mask and face guard as protection against the spread of COVID-19, Garland Independent School District custodian Camelia Tobon wipes down a table in the library at Stephens Elementary School in Rowlett, Texas, Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

open if someone is diagnosed with the virus.

Further complicating decisions, in some public school districts, kids who opt for online instruction won't be able to participate in in-person extracurricular activities.

The decision over how kids will be schooled is particularly fraught in low-income areas and communities of color that bear the double burden of being places both most affected by the pandemic and ones where students could benefit most from being in school, said Dr. Kiran Joshi, senior medical officer and co-lead of the Cook County Health Department, which serves 2.4 million

people around Chicago.

"I think there's clearly a lot of value in in-person instruction," Joshi said. "I think, though, that that has to be balanced with the need to control the pandemic."

Many parents dread a return to what millions faced this spring, when they tried to work while their kids attended online school.

About 70% of Americans think schools should open in the fall, though most of those think it should happen with restrictions, according to a recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. Only 8% say K-12 schools should operate

normally. Mask wearing has been a particular sticking point in many places. In Springfield, Illinois, scores of people rallied against a requirement that schoolchildren wear face coverings while attending class.

Claybourn, father to the kindergartner, is weighing his options. He said it's not clear yet what his local public school system in Newburgh, Indiana, would do if a someone caught COVID-19. The private school he's eyeing said it would close only the child's classroom, and only for two to three weeks.

The public school also plans to offer an online option, but to Claybourn, an attorney who

## Police and protesters clash in violent weekend across the US

ATLANTA (AP)—Protests took a violent turn in several U.S. cities over the weekend with demonstrators squaring off against federal agents outside a courthouse in Portland, Oregon, forcing police in Seattle to retreat into a station house and setting fire to vehicles in California and Virginia.

A protest against police violence in Austin, Texas, turned deadly when police said a protester was shot and killed by a person who drove through a crowd of marchers. And someone was shot and wounded in Aurora, Colorado, after a car drove through a protest there, authorities said.

The unrest Saturday and early Sunday stemmed from the weeks of protests over racial injustice and the police treatment of people of color that flared up after the May 25 death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Floyd, who was

Black and handcuffed, died after a white police officer used his knee to pin down Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes while Floyd begged for air.

In Seattle, police officers retreated into a precinct station early Sunday, hours after large demonstrations in the city's Capitol Hill neighborhood. Some demonstrators lingered after officers filed into the department's East Precinct around 1 a.m., but most cleared out a short time later, according to video posted online.

At a late-night news conference, Seattle police Chief Carmen Best called for peace. Rocks, bottles, fireworks and mortars were fired at police during the weekend unrest, and police said they arrested at least 45 people for assaults on officers, obstruction and failure to disperse. Twenty-one officers were hurt, with most

of their injuries considered minor, police said.

In Portland, thousands of people gathered Saturday evening for another night of protests over George Floyd's killing and the presence of federal agents recently sent to the city by President Donald Trump.

Protesters breached a fence surrounding the city's federal courthouse building where the agents have been stationed.

Police declared the situation to be a riot and at around 1:20 a.m., they began ordering people to leave the area surrounding the courthouse or risk arrest, saying on Twitter that the violence had created "a grave risk" to the public. About 20 minutes later, federal officers and local police could be seen attempting to clear the area and deploying tear gas, however protesters remained past 2:30 a.m., forming lines across intersections

and holding makeshift shields as police patrolled and closed blocks abutting the area. Multiple arrests were made, but it wasn't immediately clear how many.

In the Texas capital of Austin, 28-year-old Garrett Foster was shot and killed Saturday night by a person who had driven through the march against police violence.

Austin Police Chief Brian Manley said a car turned onto the block where protesters stood and honked its horn. The driver and several witnesses told police that Foster approached the driver and pointed an assault rifle at them.

In video streamed live on Facebook, a car can be heard honking before several shots ring out and protesters start screaming and scattering for cover. Police could then be seen tending to someone lying in the street.

## Flooding threat continues as Hanna drops rain on borderland

### CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP)

A downgraded Hanna continued charging across the borderland of South Texas and northeastern Mexico, where flooding remained the biggest threat Monday in a region that was already reeling from a surge in cases of the coronavirus.

Hanna, downgraded to a tropical depression, passed over the U.S.-Mexico border Sunday with winds near 50 mph (85 kph), the National Hurricane Center said. It unloaded more than 12 inches (30 centimeters) of rain in some areas, and more was expected.

Border communities whose health care systems were already strained by COVID-19 cases—with some patients being airlifted to larger cities—found themselves grappling with Hanna. There were no immediate reports of any deaths on either side of the border.

Dr. Ivan Melendez, the health authority in Hidalgo County, Texas, was treating a patient overnight at a hospital when he and a nurse noticed water streaming down a wall and pooling on the floor. The water was flowing through a vent in the room, which had been retrofitted with a fan to create negative pressure and prevent the virus spreading through the hospital.

After driving home in the storm in the middle of the night, Melendez was

trapped Sunday morning in his home by downed trees and had no electricity. He used the phone to discuss whether to put a 58-year-old woman on a ventilator, a decision he felt uncomfortable making without seeing the patient in person.

"You look at the people's eyes," he said. "You'll know if they're in despair."

Another doctor decided to place the woman on the ventilator, he said later.

Henry Van De Putte, CEO of the Red Cross' Texas Gulf Coast chapter, said the organization would open more shelters with reduced capacity to ensure social distancing. Volunteers and people seeking refuge will undergo temperature checks, and a medical professional will be assigned to each location, he said.

A community building known as the "Dome" in Mercedes, Texas, was set aside for evacuees who had tested positive for COVID-19 or were exposed to the virus. Across the region, shelters were also opened in hotels, schools and gyms.

Van De Putte emphasized that people should not delay seeking help because of the virus.

"Yes, coronavirus provides risk, but so does floodwater, so does not having electricity, so does not having required medications," he said. "We're doing everything we can do possible to make it a safe environment."

# Asia

## Outbreak in Australia blamed on sick workers

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (AP)—Australia's hard-hit Victoria state on Monday posted a new daily record of 532 new COVID-19 cases, and the government leader warned that a lockdown in the city of Melbourne would continue while infected people continued to go to work.

Melbourne is almost half way through a six-week lockdown aimed at curbing community spread of coronavirus. Mask-wearing in Australia's second-largest city became compulsory last week.

The new cases and six deaths reported on Monday surpasses a previous record of 484 new infections reported on Wednesday last week.

Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said the biggest driver of the new infections was people continuing to go to work after showing symptoms.

"This is what is driving these numbers up and the lockdown will not end until people stop going to work with symptoms and instead go and get tested," Andrews said.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison called for patience in Victoria.

"There has been significant community transmission in Victoria. That will take some time to get on top of," Morrison said.

In other developments in

## US closes Chengdu consulate in China, after Houston order

**CHENGDU, China** (AP)—The U.S. closed its consulate in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu on Monday, a victim of the rising tensions between the global powers.

China ordered the mission closed late last week in retaliation for a U.S. order to shut down the Chinese Consulate in Houston earlier the same week.

The tit-for-tat closings marked a significant escalation in the multiple disputes between the two countries over a range of issues, including trade, technology, security and human rights.

A statement from the State Department said that the Chengdu consulate suspended operations at 10 a.m.

"The consulate has stood at the center of our relations with the people in Western China, including Tibet, for 35 years," the statement said.

the Asia-Pacific region:

- Vietnam has postponed its hosting of Asia's largest security forum, which includes North Korea, and an annual meeting of Southeast Asian foreign ministers by a month to September due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Two Southeast Asian diplomats said Monday that Vietnam, which leads the Association of Southeast Asian Nations this year, hopes to hold face to face meetings in mid-September instead of doing them by online video due to travel restrictions if the annual gatherings were to be held as originally scheduled later this week. The 10-nation bloc hosts the ASEAN Regional Forum, which brings together its top diplomats with counterparts from the United States, China, Japan, Russia, India, the two Koreas and other Asia Pacific countries to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and other security issues. Most of about 1,300 ASEAN meetings this year have so far been shifted online due to the coronavirus pandemic, including an annual summit of ASEAN leaders last month. More sensitive talks, including secretive negotiations between China and ASEAN member states for a so-called "code of conduct" in the dis-

puted South China Sea, have been delayed indefinitely, said the two diplomats, who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to discuss the matter publicly.

- China on Monday reported 61 new cases of coronavirus, spread between its northeastern and northwestern regions. The Xinjiang region in the northwest reported 41 new cases, while Liaoning and Jilin provinces in the northeast saw a combined 16. Another four cases were brought by Chinese travelers from outside the country. China has reported 4,634 deaths among 83,891 cases of COVID-19.

- South Korea reported 25 new cases, bringing its national caseload to 14,175 infections and 299 deaths. South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 16 of the new cases were tied to people arriving from abroad. The country in past days have reported dozens of cases among crew members of a Russia-flagged cargo ship docked in Busan and hundreds of South Korean construction workers airlifted from virus-ravaged Iraq. Eight of the nine local transmissions were from the Seoul metropolitan area.

flatbed trailers entered the complex. One later emerged carrying a large shipping container and a crane.

Before the area was closed, the impending closure of the consulate drew a steady stream of onlookers over the weekend as Chengdu, like Houston, found itself in the limelight of international politics.

People stopped to take selfies and photos, jamming a sidewalk busy with shoppers and families with strollers on a sunny day in the city of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province. A little boy posed with a small Chinese flag before plainclothes police shooed him away as foreign media cameras zoomed in.

Police had shut the street and sidewalk in front of the consulate, cutting off virtually any view of the property including the flag. A few vehicles were allowed through after police checks, and others could be seen moving in the distance.

Moving trucks arrived at the U.S. consulate the previous day and left a few hours later. Late Sunday night,

# World



In this July 26, 2020, satellite photo provided on July 27, by Maxar Technologies, an Iranian fast boat, top left, approaches a mockup aircraft carrier built by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz. AP

### SEA AMID US TENSIONS

## Iran moves mock aircraft carrier to Strait of Hormuz

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Iran has moved a mock aircraft carrier to the strategic Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions between Tehran and the U.S., satellite photographs released Monday show, likely signalling the Islamic Republic soon plans to use it for live-fire drills.

An image from Maxar Technologies taken Sunday shows an Iranian fast boat speed toward the carrier, sending waves up in its wake, after a tugboat pulled her out into the strait from the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas.

Iranian state media and officials have yet to acknowledge bringing the replica out to the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil passes. However, its appearance there suggests Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard is preparing an encore of a similar mock-sinking it conducted in 2015.

The U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, which patrols

Mideast waterways, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The replica resembles the Nimitz-class carriers that the U.S. Navy routinely sails into the Persian Gulf from the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the waterway. The USS Nimitz, the namesake of the class, just entered Mideast waters late last week from the Indian Ocean, likely to replace the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Arabian Sea.

It remains unclear when or if the Nimitz will pass through the Strait of Hormuz or not during its time in the Mideast. The USS Abraham Lincoln, deployed last year as tensions initially spiked, spent months in the Arabian Sea before heading through the strait. The Eisenhower came through the strait early last week.

The replica carries 16 mock-ups of fighter jets on its deck, according to the satellite photos taken by Maxar Technologies. The vessel ap-

pears to be some 200 meters (650 feet) long and 50 meters (160 feet) wide. A real Nimitz is over 300 meters (980 feet) long and 75 meters (245 feet) wide.

The mock-up strongly resembles a similar one used in February 2015 during a military exercise called "Great Prophet 9." During that drill, Iran swarmed the fake aircraft carrier with speedboats firing machine guns and rockets. Surface-to-sea missiles later targeted and destroyed the fake carrier.

That drill, however, came as Iran and world powers remained locked in negotiations over Tehran's nuclear program. Today, the deal born of those negotiations is in tatters. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord in May 2018. Iran later responded by slowly abandoning nearly every tenant of the agreement, though it still allows U.N. inspectors access to its nuclear sites.

## Number of fires more than doubles in Brazil's Pantanal

**BRASILIA, Brazil** (AP)—The number of fires in Brazil's Pantanal, the world's biggest tropical wetlands, more than doubled in the first half of 2020 compared to the same period last year, according to data released by a state institute. Officials said it was the largest number of fires in a six-month period in the last two decades.

The sharp increase in fires comes amid domestic and international concern over Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's calls to clear land in order to drive economic development, and follows a surge in fires, many set to make land available for

farming and other industry, in the Amazon last year.

There were 2,534 recorded fires in the Pantanal between January and June, the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research said. Between January and June 2019, the institute recorded 981 fires. The 2020 numbers represent a 158% increase than the 2019 numbers.

As of Saturday, the institute had registered another 1,322 fires in July, for a total of 3,856 blazes in the wetlands that extend through the states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul, in central-western Brazil.

Until the end of last month, technicians from the institute

estimated the total area of the Pantanal burned this year at 1,969 square miles (5,100 km<sup>2</sup>).

On July 16, the Brazilian government issued a decree banning burning in the Pantanal wetlands and the Amazon forest for four months. However, in the Pantanal alone, 1,002 fire spots have been identified since the decree came into force.

Mato Grosso do Sul state has declared a state of environmental emergency. It says the critical period of seasonal forest fires is just beginning and cites extreme conditions such as high temperatures, strong winds and low air humidity.

# Overdrive

## AUTO REVIEW: Toyota's ferocious sports car is Supra cool

By HENRY PAYNE  
THE DETROIT NEWS

**DETROIT**—The Toyota Supra is back after two decades away, and Americans are thankful.

I took Toyota's hot rod up north for a weekend and I haven't seen a car swarmed like it since I drove a scissor-door 2016 BMW i8 around Motown. At a traffic light in the middle of Petoskey, Mich., everyone stopped in their tracks to ogle the Supra.

Sure, the Skittle-yellow color had something to do with it. But the Supra is also one of the most ferocious-looking cars on the road today. From its long, LeMans prototype-inspired snout to its double-bubble roof to its lion haunches, Supra is a rolling biceps muscle.

"You've got to take me for a ride," said car pal Mary, who had been properly circumspect about drives in new cars during the COVID lockdown. She had resisted the Ram Power Wagon, the Mazda Miata and the Jeep Gladiator Mojave. But she couldn't resist a go in the Supra rocket.

After a short jaunt—the turbocharged, 3.0-liter, inline-6 cylinder howling like a wolf while its 8-speed tranny cracked off quick shifts—she was a giggling puddle in the right seat.

Yes, Supra 3.0 (for the 3.0-liter engine within) backs up its sensational looks with outrageous driving abilities. And affordable pricing to boot.

I almost felt sorry for the \$100,000-plus Lexus LC500 convertible I had tested a week prior, which is no slouch in the

sex-appeal department. Store the LC500's hardtop in the boot with a touch of a button and you have a front-row seat to an open-air V-8 concert. But it's no Supra.

Indeed, for the price of the LC 500 you could buy two of my \$57,000 Supras.

Which is actually two BMWs. Because, truth be told, the secret of the Supra's success is it shares its bones with BMW's fabulous Z4 Roadster.

Given the high regulatory costs of developing low-volume sports cars these days, Toyota teamed up with its Bavarian counterpart, just as Mazda did with Fiat to build the current-generation Miata. Toyota got a heckuva deal.

Toyota took BMW's chassis, engine and interior tech, wrapped it in a yowza Supra shell, and tuned the suspension for its natural Fast 'n' Furious clientele. I first tested the Supra at Summit Point Raceway last year and it's a car that loves to be thrown around. Its neutral suspension tuning encourages lurid slides through slow corners before exploding down straightaways to that glorious I-6 soundtrack.

At Michigan Beach in Charlevoix, my wife and I could barely see the sunset for all the dudes giving the Supra thumbs up. Huge front intakes set under brooding, wrapped headlights feed 335 horses in the 2020 model—a whopping 382 if you wait for the 2021 model hitting showrooms this summer.

Toyota Chairman Akio Toyoda wants his new generation of Toyotas and Lexi to be eye-catching. Some are misses, but the Supra's a hit.



The 2020 Toyota Supra features a 3.0-liter turbocharged inline six that produces 335 hp and 365 lb-ft of torque.

It's especially noticeable from the rear with five-spoke wheels wrapped in fat 11-inch-wide tires under bulging fenders. It reminds of the '70s Porsche 935 race cars I coveted as a teen. Toyota likes the look so much it's shared with the Highlander SUV.

"You know, the old Supra was a good-looking car," said a middle-aged gent circling the Supra in a grocery store parking lot. "And this thing looks cool, too."

Also cool? My Supra 3.0 is five-grand cheaper than the four-cylinder, 255-horsepower BMW Z4 I brought up north last year to explore the same roads. New for 2021 is an even more affordable \$47,000 Supra 2.0 equipped with the same BMW turbo-4.

But if you can spare the extra coin, go Supra 3.0.

The inline-6 is one of BMW's jewels, and it aligns with Supra's own inline-6 heritage. There was no race track up north to exercise the Supra, but M-32's writhing curves were a satisfying substitute.

I resisted the urge to drift, but the Supra still enjoyed the occasional tail wag under power.

It was a remarkable contrast with the Z4—the BMW handling tidy as a good German should be. It's also very different than the LC 500, which felt like a portly boulevard cruiser next to the whip-quick, 1,000-pounds-leaner, 3,397-pound Supra. I can't believe I'm dissing the Lexus with a Toyota, but the Supra is that good.

Its full name is Toyota GR Supra 3.0—after Toyota's racing arm Gazoo Racing—and the little sports car comes with a Sport mode that really turns up the wick. Tap the console button and the exhaust baritone drops an octave. The suspension tightens like a cheetah in tall grass. I put the eight-speed automatic in manual mode. POUNCE!

Shifting at the 7,000-rpm redline, the sound is addictive. Hard on the red Brembo brakes, the engine breathes out, the dual rear pipes farting and popping. It's obnoxious in town, irresistible on the open road.

But when the road flattens out, the BMW-crafted interior pays dividends. I mean, think about it—it's a Toyota with a BMW interior.

Driving north for miles on I-75, the Supra's bolstered sport seats are a pleasant place to be. The instrument display is styled after the LC 500 with its big tachometer, but the console is all BMW. Like Z4, the tablet infotainment screen features crisp menu pages that can be swiped by touch—or operated with the BMW's best-in-the-biz remote rotary-dial. My carbon-fiber wrapped console also features BMW's space-efficient monostable shifter.

Supra's hatchback (like an old, front engine Corvette C7 for motorheads still pining for a front-engine beast) allows surprising space for two passengers and their luggage. This is not an Alfa 4C or Miata. An annoying negative: the hatch causes bad interior buffeting when you want to drive with the windows down.

At a service station off I-75,

a mom leaned out the window of her SUV while her young son snapped Supra pictures from the backseat.

"I loooove the Supra," she said. "I've seen two in white and black, but I really like it in yellow."

As I exited West Branch onto the interstate, I punched the Sport button and hit (censored to protect my license) mph on the entry ramp before settling down to 80 mph for the rest of the trip north. Like all Toyotas, Supra was generously equipped with high-tech features like blind-spot assist and adaptive cruise-control to make the interstate miles more relaxing.

So that when you hit the twisties, you're ready to rumble.

### NUTS & BOLTS

#### 2020-2021 Toyota Supra

- Vehicle type: Front-engine sports car
- Price: \$58,135 2021 Supra 3.0 as tested
- Powerplant: 2.0-liter, turbo-4 cylinder; 3.0-liter inline-6 cylinder
- Power: 255 horsepower, 295 pound-feet of torque (turbo-4); 335 horsepower, 332 pound-feet of torque (2020 I-6); 382 horsepower, 368 torque (2021 I-6)
- Transmission: 8-speed automatic
- Performance: 0-60 mph, 3.7 seconds (Car and Driver est.); top speed, 162 mph
- Weight: 3,397 pounds (I-6)
- Fuel economy: EPA, 24 mpg city/31 highway/26 combined (I-6)

**Report card**

- Highs: A hoot to drive fast; BMW innards, Toyota price
- Lows: Bad wind buffet with windows down; no stick option
- Overall: 4 stars

## Under the Hood: Troubleshooting an ABS problem

**Q: I own a 2010 Chevy Express 2500. Last year I began having issues with the ABS on my front brakes. They would kick in at about 8 mph, down to dead stop.**

**I had a bad bearing, so I purchased a pair of bearings online (RockAuto). The bearings came with new ABS sensors. Installing the first bearing, I mucked up the ABS sensor, so I robbed the one off the other bearing. I ordered a replacement (ACDelco) sensor, and when it came in I replaced the other bearing.**

**The ABS problem continued, and I assumed it was because the two sensors were different manufacturers, so I ordered two more ACDelco sensors. Same problem.**

**In my research, I find pass-**

**ing mention of an air gap between sensor and ring. I bolted these directly to the bearing. The original had a paper-thin copper spacer that I tossed. Could this be an issue? Or could it be something else? Any and all suggestions are greatly appreciated.**

**A:** Perhaps I should start with a quick overview of these parts before suggesting some ideas.

Your van utilizes a wheel speed sensor at each wheel so the ABS system can compare and mitigate differences in speed (wheel lock-up). A typical wheel speed sensor plugs into the hub, with its tip very close to a spinning reluctor wheel or tone ring (resembles a gear with many iron teeth). The sensor's coil of fine wire and magnet act as a tiny al-

ternating current generator as the iron teeth pass by, outputting a positive/negative electrical waveform. The ABS system compares the frequency of the four waveforms and infers wheel speed irregularities, acting accordingly.

Correct wheel speed sensor operation requires clean reluctor teeth and a correct sensor to teeth air gap. Your reluctor is built into the sealed hub, which helps keep it clean. When a wheel bearing wears excessively and the hub wobbles, the air gap becomes irregular and the reluctor's teeth can hit the sensor, damaging it. This is likely what brought on your original symptom of low speed (4-10 mph) unintended ABS intervention.

I'm not sure how your new sensor became damaged; per-

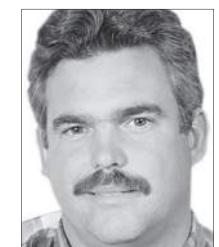
haps the cable became injured during installation. The aftermarket hub and sensor, as was the original, are a select fit, often utilizing a thin spacer beneath the sensor's mounting base as a means of setting depth/air gap. The needed gap is approximately 0.020 inch—quite small—and swapping parts back and forth or installing a sensor from one company into a hub made by another company gets a little scary. Too little, and the reluctor strikes the sensor or a possible odd waveform occurs. Too large, and the electrical waveform is weak/tiny at low speeds.

With your sealed hub type, it isn't possible to view or measure the air gap. I'm thinking you might remove the sensor you worked with and check

By BRAD BERGHOLDT

Tribune News Service

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to see if the tip shows signs of contact with the passing reluctor teeth. If so, it may require replacement and the addition of one or more shims to gain some clearance.

I'm hoping it's possible to gently press the sensor down into its bore and check to see if it bottoms out (a tiny gap exists under the mounting flange) or bounces as the hub is rotated. Measuring this gap with a feeler gauge, and adding 0.020 inch would provide a likely optimum tip to teeth air gap. Sensor shims appear

next to impossible to purchase separately, they sometimes come with a new sensor. I'd consider making my own as needed, perhaps using thin plastic such as a cottage cheese container lid.

The best way to be certain of correct wheel speed sensor operation is to connect a multi-channel lab scope and confirm similar waveforms from each sensor. A pro-grade scan tool could also be used to verify identical and consistent MPH readings from each sensor.

# Life & Style

## Beijing partly reopens movie theaters as virus declines

BEIJING (AP)—Beijing partially reopened movie theaters Friday as the threat from the coronavirus continues to recede in China's capital.

Cinemas in parts of the city deemed at low risk of cross-infection began admitting moviegoers under social distancing rules. Tickets must be booked in advance, attendance is capped at 30% of capacity and no eating or drinking is allowed during the show.

As with most venues in China, a temperature check and online travel record were required for entry. Cinemas have been closed for around six months but began reopening this week in major cities throughout the country.

China reported just 21 new virus cases on Friday, six of them imported, with the rest in the Xinjiang region and Jilin province. Beijing has gone more than two weeks without any cases of local transmission, spurring authorities to lift many restrictions on activities.

Tickets at Poly International Cinema's branch near Tiananmen Square were sold out Friday, with the marquee boast-



People wearing face masks to protect against the coronavirus sit spaced apart as they watch the film "Dolittle" at a movie theater in Beijing, Friday, July 24, 2020. AP

ing the comedy Dolittle and superhero attraction Bloodshot. China's domestic movie industry has also been generating major ticket sales while audiences have warmed to features from India and other foreign countries.

Movie poster designer Liu Jingyu managed to grab tickets for both Hollywood films shown at the Poly cinema, re-

kindling his hopes after seeing his earnings dry up over the past half-year.

"For us who make a living on movies and who are movie enthusiasts, without movies, our life is full of pain," Liu said.

Chinese are enthusiastic moviegoers and the country was expected to surpass the U.S. this year as the world's biggest box office before the

pandemic hit.

Li Xu, manager of the Poly cinema branch, said he is looking forward to the October National Day holiday when he expected the movie market would return to normal. The weeklong vacation is typically huge for ticket sales, with Chinese cinemas generating a record 5 billion yuan (\$708 million) from Sept. 30 to Oct. 7 last year.

## Olivia de Havilland, Oscar-winning actress, dies at 104

PARIS (AP)—Olivia de Havilland, the doe-eyed actress beloved to millions as the sainted Melanie Wilkes of "Gone With the Wind," but also a two-time Oscar winner and an off-screen fighter who challenged and unchained Hollywood's contract system, died Sunday at her home in Paris. She was 104.

Havilland, the sister of fellow Oscar winner Joan Fontaine, died peacefully of natural causes, said New

York-based publicist Lisa Goldberg.

De Havilland was among the last of the top screen performers from the studio era, and the last surviving lead from "Gone With the Wind," an irony, she once noted, since the fragile, self-sacrificing Melanie Wilkes was the only major character to die in the film. The 1939 epic, based on Margaret Mitchell's



Havilland

best-selling Civil War novel and winner of 10 Academy Awards, is often ranked as Hollywood's box office champion (adjusting for inflation), although it is now widely criticized for its glorified portrait of slavery and antebellum life.

The pinnacle of producer David O. Selznick's career, the movie had a troubled off-screen story.

Three directors worked on the film, stars Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable were far more connected on screen than off and the fourth featured performer, Leslie Howard, was indifferent to the role of Ashley Wilkes, Melanie's husband. But de Havilland remembered the movie as "one of the happiest experiences I've ever had in my life. It was doing something I wanted to do, playing a character I loved and liked."

## Older, wiser woman wants to apologize for past sins

**D**EAR ABBY: Is it ever too late to apologize to an ex-boyfriend? I'm in my mid-40s now, and over the last three years, I have gone through a significant change. It has helped me to face myself, let go of useless hate and anger and forgive the people who hurt me. It has made me a much happier person.

One of the results of this change is realizing how much I dislike who I was when I was younger. I'm sure many people made mistakes in their early 20s and maybe blew it off, because I know I did. But now I can't. I'm ashamed of my previous behavior and have been thinking about reaching out to him to apologize for the horrible things I did while we were together.

My family says I shouldn't do it. They say I'm being ridiculous because "who cares about how an old partner treated you decades ago?" But I'm struggling with letting it go. I learned years ago to take responsibility for my mistakes, but it's something I didn't do in that relationship.

I'm currently in a solid and happy relationship, which is why I think my family may be so against this, and while I don't know my ex's relationship status, I have no ulterior motives for reaching out. The person I am today just wants very much to apologize for the person I used to be, but I don't want to cause any problems. What is your neutral advice?

SORRY IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR SORRY IN THE SOUTHWEST: I don't think it

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact *Dear Abby* at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



is ever too late to say "I'm sorry," and I seriously doubt that an overdue apology for your past behavior would cause problems. Because you feel compelled to offer one, go ahead and do it. You may be pleasantly surprised to find that your former flame recovered from whatever you did and went on with his life as you have with yours. And if that's not the case, he may need to receive your apology as much as you need to give it.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My family and I moved to Las Vegas seven months ago, and we love it here. We are not heavy gamblers, but we occasionally like to hit a local casino (once, maybe twice, a month) and never spend more than \$50. We consider it paying for entertainment rather than a chance at winning it big.

My parents are coming to visit soon and, unfortunately, they

## Rift between royal brothers laid bare in new book extract

LONDON (AP)—Prince William infuriated Prince Harry when he told his younger brother he should move slowly in his relationship with the former Meghan Markle, fearing that he was being "blindsided by lust," a new book on the Windsors says.

The second installment of a serialized version of the book "Finding Freedom," which appeared in the Sunday Times, claimed that Harry was angered by what he perceived as William's snobby tone in a discussion about the American actress when they were dating. Royal reporters Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand wrote that Harry disliked William's advice to "take as much time as you need to get to know this girl."

The authors quote a source close to William as saying he didn't want Harry to be "blindsided by lust." The authors wrote that Harry "no longer felt as though he needed looking after," and took it badly.

"In those last two words, 'this girl', Harry heard the tone of snobbishness that was anathema to his approach to the world," the excerpt said, noting that Harry has spent 10 years in the military and outside the royal bubble.

"Also, to remove Meghan from the equation, Harry was tired of the dynamic that had become established between him and his older brother," the authors added.

In announcing the book's publication, Harper Collins U.K. said the book by Scobie,

royal editor of Harper's Bazaar and Durand, Elle magazine's royal correspondent, would aim to capture "the real Harry and Meghan." The publisher said the authors have been given "unique access" and the cooperation of those closest to the couple.

Ahead of the book's release, Harry and Meghan issued a statement denying taking part in the publication.

"The Duke and Duchess of Sussex were not interviewed and did not contribute to 'Finding Freedom,'" it said. "This book is based on the authors' own experiences as members of the royal press corps and their own independent reporting."

The book described how the rest of the family and the Royal Household also didn't know what to make of Meghan. One senior courtier is said to have told a colleague: "There's just something about her I don't trust." Another called her "Harry's showgirl."

The excerpt is even harsher when it comes to the Duchess of Cambridge, suggesting she hardly rolled out the red carpet for Meghan, despite the similarity of challenges both would face.

"Though it was not necessarily her responsibility, Kate did little to bridge the divide. She was fiercely loyal to her husband and his family," the authors wrote. "Once Harry and Meghan were married, the gap between the brothers only widened."

have had a history of compulsive gambling. They admit they have a problem and have been going to support groups off and on for the past year.

We have lots of off-strip fun planned, but I know they will want to visit a casino because, well, it's Vegas! Would I be enabling them if I went with them to a casino? Could this trigger more compulsive gambling when they return home? Are there any boundaries I should set? I don't want to see them spiral into their addiction again, but I also want us all to enjoy the "What happens in Vegas ..." vacation mentality during their visit.

### GAMBLING WITH THEIR ADDICTION

**DEAR GAMBLING:** The "what happens in Vegas (stays in Vegas)" mentality means that what happened in Vegas was not something to be proud of. It would absolutely challenge your parents' "sobriety" if you take them to a casino, and your fear that it could jump-start a relapse is well-founded. Keep them busy, but don't take them to places where they are tempted to gamble. If they decide to do it on their own, you won't have anything to feel guilty about.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®



By Jim Davis

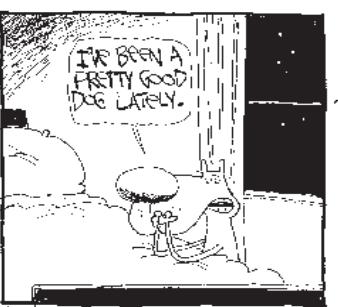


## Adam@home

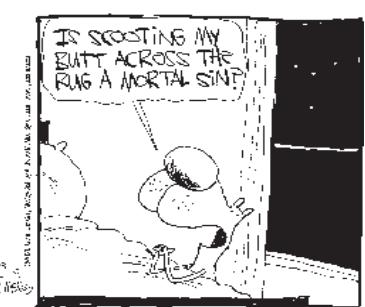


By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	San	2	Comics cry	22	Wrinkled
1	Harvest	Diego	3	Whatever	fruit	
5	Punk rock	player	4	Throbbed	23	Hide
8	offshoot	38	Trans-	5	Jittery	24
12	Olympian	ressor	6	"Not im-	"Tiny	Bubbles"
13	queen	41	pressed"	7	Precise	singer
14	Bistro	flu	8	Aloha	26	Computer-
15	handout	42	Lotion	9	State	savvy elite
16	Lair	additive	10	Oscar-	27	First-place
17	Alamo	43	From	11	winning	medal
18	rival	dusk to	12	actress	28	Farmer,
19	Ceiling	dawn	13	Moreno	14	at times
20	window	48	Stead	15	Biblical	
21	Saturates	49	Greek	16	pronoun	
22	Hog	50	Cross	17	31	
23	haven	Alaskan	51	Admin.	Tragic	
24	Noah's	city	52	aide	34	Get in
25	landfall	Iodine	53	16—"My	shape	
26	hoodwinks	source		Turn"	35	Comedian
27	Zwei	"Big Blue"		(Diana	36	Mindy
28	follower	Suitable		Ross hit	37	of "The
29	Mellowed	DOWN	20	song)	Brooch	Office"
30	Aerial	1	Apt.		38	37
31	battle	divisions	21	Boxing	Polio	
32	Unwell			arbiters	vaccine	
33	Eats in				discoverer	
34	style					
35	Reaction					
36	to					
37	fireworks					
38	"Don't					
39	move!"					
40	Swiss					
41	artist					
42	Paul					
43	36					
44	Layered					
45	cookie					

Yesterday's answer 7-28

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5956 99¢ per minute, touchtone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**STUMPED?**

## CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Dustin Milligan, 35; Sally Struthers, 73; Jim Davis, 75; Peter Cullen, 79.

**Happy Birthday:** Take the initiative, and follow through with your plans. Refuse to let emotions stand between you and what's right. Pursue your passion, and be true to yourself and honest with those around you. Be the one to step up and confront what needs to be changed. Don't take romance, love and family ties for granted. Your numbers are 3, 10, 16, 21, 29, 35, 47.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Look for a unique way to save money. A change may seem out of reach, but when you crunch the numbers and look at the long-term savings, you'll revisit the idea. Take physical action, do the work yourself and good things will happen. **★★★**

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Consider what you want, and make it happen.

A partnership with someone who shares your interests and beliefs will step up and bear half the brunt. An emotional discussion will bring you closer to someone you love. **★★★**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Refuse to let the changes going on around you throw you off guard. Keep moving at a consistent pace, and you will overcome any setbacks you encounter along the way. Personal improvements will give you the oomph you need to go the distance. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Don't give up on your dreams. Take the initiative, and do something to activate what you want to achieve. Be the one to step up and follow

through. Positive change is within reach. It's time to make your move. **★★★★★**

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): An incident will leave you on shaky ground with someone you live or work alongside. Be consistent, stick to the truth and follow your heart. A new routine that promises better health, peace of mind and excellent compatibility with others is encouraged. **★★**

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## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Leave nothing to chance. Make the necessary changes to ensure your plans unfold without a hitch. Reach out to someone you have worked with previously; he or she will help you reach your expectations on time. **★★★★★**

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't take a risk. Iron out any problems before you begin something. Knowing what you are up against will be half the battle; the other half will be letting go of what's not working for you anymore. Get your priorities straight. **★★**

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Talks will lead to positive change. Use connections to enlighten you about changes in your community or the industry in which you work. Innovation and intelligence will help you surpass any competition you encounter today. **★★★★★**

**BIRTHDAY BABY:** You are open-minded, curious and ambitious. You are enthusiastic and heartfelt.

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DO YOU FLOUNCE?

Solution: 9 letters

D	G	E	P	A	C	E	D	I	L	G	H	E	F	P
H	E	G	D	U	R	T	I	M	N	C	C	D	O	W
S	S	T	M	A	R	C	H	I	R	N	A	S	O	S
W	T	I	A	E	R	E	R	U	A	E	T	L	T	P
A	I	U	R	R	T	A	L	R	R	U	E	A	S	E
G	C	H	M	U	E	A	P	T	R	B	N	T	T	C
G	U	T	S	B	O	G	L	E	R	C	P	T	E	T
E	L	A	G	A	L	L	G	U	E	T	I	P	A	
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E	T	S	I	I	L	F	P	X	N	R	U	T	L	
T	I	T	L	F	I	P	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	E	U	D	R	E
T	N	R	F	E	R	L	U	T	S	S	E	I	V	
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L	R	T	M	N	O	I	T	B	I	H	X	E	E	
F	S	P	E	E	D	A	S	H	E	L	G	G	I	W

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Yesterday's Answer: Trigger  
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# Ohtani struggles, Athletics top Angels

 **OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)— Back on the mound after nearly 23 months, Shohei Ohtani hardly felt comfortable. Rather rusty, in fact, the ball leaving his hand without the purpose and feel he is so accustomed to.

The way things started, Angels manager Joe Maddon couldn't see the day getting any better for his Japanese two-way star.

Ohtani didn't record an out in his long-awaited return to the mound for the Angels, allowing the first six Oakland batters to reach base before his day was done in a 6-4 loss to the Athletics on Sunday.

He may be available as designated hitter in Monday's series finale.

"I felt like I was ready," Ohtani said through an interpreter. "Looking back, I felt like I couldn't throw with all my strength. There's a lot of things I'll look back on and work on the pitching side, but we have another game tomorrow and I still have a chance to play so I've got to change my focus to tomorrow's game."

The right-hander gave up Marcus Semien's leadoff single and three straight walks before a mound visit and Mark Canha's two-run single. Robbie Grossman singled in another run, and Maddon replaced Ohtani (0-1) with Matt Andriese down 4-0.

"He just didn't throw the ball very well," Maddon said. "It just wasn't his day. The fastball wasn't coming out, there was no deception in his pitches. These are major league hitters. Walks were a big part of that."

The Angels wasted a big day by Mike Trout, who hit a three-run homer in the third and a sacrifice fly in the fifth. David Fletcher wound up with four hits.

Yusmeiro Petit (1-0) worked out of a fifth-inning jam in relief of Mike Fiers for the win, and Liam Hendriks earned a four-out save after blowing a chance in Friday night's 10-inning victory.

"It was a good bounce-back one," Hendriks said.

This was a long time coming for the Angels and 2018 AL Rookie of the Year Ohtani, who took visible deep breaths between pitches. Ohtani made his first appearance on the mound since Sept. 2, 2018 after not pitching last season following Tommy John elbow surgery.

"Again, this is a young man coming off of a severe injury and right now requires all of our patience," Maddon said.

Ohtani threw 30 pitches, reaching 94.7 mph with his



AP  
Los Angeles Angels manager Joe Maddon, right, takes the ball as he relieves pitcher Shohei Ohtani during the first inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, July 26, 2020.

fastball—he averaged 96.7 mph and touched 100 mph in 2018.

"Not so much for the mechanics but I just didn't get that feel for the game back," Ohtani said. "Today I just felt like I was throwing the ball rather than pitching. Just a little rust and I need to come up with a game plan so I can get efficient outs."

## Mariners 7, Astros 6

Houston surrendered a tie-breaking two-run single to rookie Kyle Lewis in the eighth inning of a loss to Seattle, and then announced ace Justin Verlander will be shut down for at least two weeks with a strained right forearm.

Astros manager Dusty Baker denied a report that said the injury would end Verlander's season. He said Verlander would be evaluated after two weeks.

Lewis and Shed Long Jr. each had two hits and two RBIs for the Mariners, who had dropped their last 15 games against Houston.

## Indians 9, Royals 2

More than a year since being stricken with leukemia, Carlos Carrasco struck out 10 in six-plus innings to help Cleveland take two of three in the delayed season-opening series.

Jose Ramirez hit a three-run homer left-handed in the fourth and added a solo shot from the right side in the sixth

for the Indians, who finally put some solid swings together against Kansas City's bullpen.

With his rotation currently thin due to pitchers testing positive for COVID-19, Royals manager Mike Matheny started reliever Ronald Bolaños (0-1), who gave up two runs in the first and took the loss.

## Twins 14, White Sox 2

Nelson Cruz homered twice and drove in seven runs, helping Kenta Maeda win his debut with Minnesota.

Jake Cave hit a grand slam in the first inning for Minnesota, which belted a major league-record 307 homers last season. Marwin Gonzalez added a solo shot in the ninth.

Maeda (1-0), a Japanese right-hander who was acquired in a February trade with the Dodgers, allowed two runs in five innings.

Cruz finished with four hits and scored four times. He went 7 for 13 with 10 RBIs and three home runs in the opening series.

## Rays 6, Blue Jays 5 10 innings

Kevin Kiermaier's first hit of the season, a two-run triple into the right field corner in the 10th inning, gave Tampa Bay the win.

Tampa Bay's defensive whiz delivered the second game-ending hit of his career after the Rays scored twice in the ninth to force extra in-

nings, then fell behind again 5-4 when Blue Jays pinch-runner Santiago Espinal stole third base and scored on Lourdes Gurriel Jr.'s sacrifice fly off Chaz Roe (1-0).

## Marlins 11, Phillies 6

Miami scratched right-hander José Ureña from its victory at Philadelphia and delayed its postgame trip home amid concerns about a possible coronavirus outbreak within the team.

No reason was given for Ureña being scratched. Manager Don Mattingly said the Marlins decided to wait until Monday to leave Philadelphia, and they planned to arrive in Miami hours before their home opener against Baltimore. The trip might be made while multiple players remain in Philadelphia.

## Pirates 5, Cardinals 1

Pittsburgh's Derek Shelton staged baseball's first major, socially distanced umpire argument, then got his first victory as a big league manager.

Colin Moran and Jose Osuna homered for the Pirates, and Mitch Keller (1-0) pitched five solid innings.

Shelton came out to argue with plate umpire Jordan Baker in the third inning after pitcher Derek Holland was ejected from the dugout for arguing balls and strikes.

Baker let Shelton say his piece, and the first-year skipper was not ejected.

## Orioles 7, Red Sox 4

Rio Ruiz and Anthony Santander hit two-run home runs to help the Baltimore Orioles beat the Boston Red Sox.

José Iglesias added four hits for the Orioles, who took the final two games of the season-opening series.

Baltimore's Wade LeBlanc (1-0) gave up two home runs but settled down over 5 2/3 innings, allowing four runs and four hits while striking out four. Cole Sulser held the Red Sox scoreless over the final two innings to get the save.

## Diamondbacks 4, Padres 3

Ketel Marte hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly off Kirby Yates, and Arizona rallied for four runs off San Diego's vaunted bullpen after the Diamondbacks' Torey Lovullo became the first manager to be ejected in the COVID-19 era.

San Diego's Garrett Richards left with a 1-0 lead after holding

Arizona to one hit in five innings, but the Diamondbacks, who struggled offensively in their first two games, came alive three innings after the masked Lovullo was ejected for arguing with plate umpire Mark Ripperger, who wasn't wearing a cloth facemask.

## Cubs 9, Brewers 1

Tyler Chatwood pitched three-hit ball over six innings, Willson Contreras homered and the Cubs beat the Brewers to take two of three in their open-

ing series.

Chatwood (1-0) struck out eight and walked two in an impressive start for a pitcher who struggled with his control his first two years in Chicago.

Ian Happ added a two-run drive in the eighth for Chicago, and Anthony Rizzo belted a solo shot one out later.

## Yankees 3, Nationals 2

Gleyber Torres helped the New York Yankees prevent the Washington Nationals from tooting their own horn.

Yes, the reigning World Series champs had an actual, honest-to-goodness trumpet in their dugout Sunday. Alas, their bullpen blew a lead, so the Nationals never got the chance to jazz up a victory celebration with the brass instrument.

Facing two of Washington's top relievers, Torres homered in the seventh inning to begin the rally from a two-run hole, then tacked on a go-ahead single in the eighth, lifting New York to its second victory out of the three games in the season-opening series.

## Tigers 3, Reds 2

C.J. Cron hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the ninth inning, and Detroit got to Cincinnati's bullpen for the second straight day.

Miguel Cabrera led off with a 10-pitch walk before Cron connected against Michael Lorenzen (0-1), sending an opposite-field drive deep to right.

José Cisneros (1-0) pitched the eighth for the win. Joe Jiménez got Joey Votto to bounce into a game-ending double play for his second save in two days.

Cincinnati played without second baseman Mike Moustakas and center fielder Nick Senzel.

## Rockies 5, Rangers 2

Trevor Story homered twice for Colorado after Corey Kluber left his Texas debut with shoulder tightness.

Kluber, who was acquired in an offseason trade with Cleveland, lasted just one inning and 18 pitches in his first start in almost 15 months.

The Rangers said Kluber reported feeling the tightness in the first few pitches and it got worse as the inning progressed.

# Bucks hope to prove doubters wrong



FLORIDA—In NBA history, nine teams had a net rating of at least +10—outscoring teams by 10 points per 100 possessions—over the course of an NBA season. Eight of those nine teams won the NBA title, the ninth was the 2016 Golden State Warriors that won 73 games but blew a 3-1 lead in the Finals.

The 2019-20 Milwaukee Bucks are the 10th team to reach that mark, +10.7 through March 11 when the NBA was shut down.

Yet there are doubts around the league that these Bucks can win the title. It's because we saw the Boston Celtics two years ago, and then the Toronto Raptors last playoffs, block off Giannis Antetokounmpo's path to the rim, forcing the Bucks to go to a Plan B and their role players to step up. They didn't. Those Milwaukee teams fell short of reaching the NBA Finals.

Are these Bucks different?

It feels like they are. This looks like a team ready to take the next step.

If not, an offseason of speculation about the future of Antetokounmpo in Milwaukee—he is eligible to sign a supermax extension this offseason and the Bucks will offer it—will begin.

Everything with the Bucks starts with Antetokounmpo—a man about to be a back-to-back MVP winner and likely will join Michael Jordan and Hakeem Olajuwon as the only players to win MVP and Defensive Player of the Year in the same season. Antetokounmpo averaged 29.6 points with ridiculous 60.8 percent true shooting while grabbing 13.7 rebounds and dishing out 5.8 assists per game. Every team has a game plan to stop him, nobody does.



In this Nov. 30, 2019 file photo, Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) dunks against the Charlotte Hornets during the first half of an NBA game in Milwaukee. AP

be All-NBA—level averaging 21.1 points a game and shooting 41.8% from three, while playing elite defense. Behind him was Eric Bledsoe at 15.4 points game, the player whose improved play this season largely covered up the loss of Brogdon. Critical to making it all work is Brook Lopez, who will get well deserved Defensive Player of the Year votes and scored 11 points a game (he seems to be past the shooting woes from three that plagued him during the season).

Beyond that core, Wesley Matthews has looked strong in the Bucks' Orlando scrimmages, Donte DiVincenzo made huge strides and played well this season, and George Hill was critical in locking down the second unit. Then there is Pat Connaughton—reportedly recovered from the coronavirus and in Orlando quarantining—and sharpshooter Kyle Korver.

What makes these Bucks different is their defense—best in the league by far with a defensive rating of 101.6. They lock teams down.

Milwaukee had the best defense in the NBA a season ago, too, but this campaign they are 3.3 points per 100 better than that team—a huge improvement.

The Bucks defensive strategy is straightforward: wall off the paint. The Bucks allowed the fewest shots at the rim in the league and the fewest points in the paint. Milwaukee takes away the easy buckets at the rim.

Milwaukee also is quick to

contest corner threes and take those away—they can defend the paint and the corner because of the length and athleticism on the roster.

What Milwaukee gives up are midrange shots and threes above the break—the statistically least dangerous shots in the league. They will live with those.

It works, especially with the length and athleticism of the Bucks. The concern is that the best teams in the NBA—starting with the Celtics in the East, plus the teams likely to come out of the West—take and make those shots.

Milwaukee checks all the boxes of a team headed to the NBA Finals and a title contender: MVP player, depth and versatility, elite defense. This has been the best team in the NBA this season for good reason.

But come the Eastern Conference Finals and NBA Finals, when the other best teams in the league have the talent to limit what the Bucks have done all season to win games, will the role players be able to step up and execute Plan B?

Will coach Mike Budenholzer be willing to go to that plan, and maybe even play Antetokounmpo more than 40 minutes a game. Last season, in a six-game series with the Raptors, Antetokounmpo still averaged just 38.5 minutes a game—“If we can’t win with Giannis at 40, 40.5 (minutes), then Toronto deserves it,” Budenholzer said.

No. When you have the MVP, that series is when you lean on him. The Bucks didn’t do that enough.

This feels like the Bucks’ year. This year feels like the season Milwaukee is back in the NBA Finals.

If not, the offseason of Antetokounmpo speculation will begin. **(NBC)**

four seasons, Finau has finished 35 rounds inside the top three, by far the most without a win on tour over that stretch. Tommy Fleetwood (20) has the second most.

“They don’t give out second-place trophies, third-place trophies,” said Finau, who shot a 78 on the final round of the Memorial last week to finish eighth in Ohio after sharing the 36-hole lead there. “I’ve learned that the hard way with lot of them coming early in my career, but I continue to just believe and hope for the best for my future.”

Finau and Werenski were joined in third by Robby Shelton, Charles Howell III, Emiliano Grillo, Alex Noren, Max Homa, Cameron Tringale, and Charl Schwartzel.

The Bucks are far from a one-man show, however.

Milwaukee was +4.1 points per 100 this season when Antetokounmpo was off the court (which was a fair amount, the Greek Freak averaged fewer

than 31 minutes a game). That rating would have been seventh-best in the NBA this season—a top 10 team even without the league’s MVP stepping on the court. While the Bucks were +3.1 a season

ago when Antetokounmpo sat, this team has looked better without their leader despite the loss of Malcolm Brogdon in the offseason.

Khris Middleton is still playing at an All-Star—may-

## Thompson beats high-profile players to end drought



BLAINE, Minn. (AP)—Without a gallery around him on the 18th green, Michael Thompson settled for a subdued victory celebration at the 3M Open with a FaceTime call home to his wife and children in Georgia.

The tears came from him and his wife as soon as they saw each other on the screen.

Thompson birdied two of the last three holes Sunday for a 4-under 67 and a two-stroke victory, finishing off his second PGA Tour win seven years after his first.

“It is a little sad that there wasn’t anybody out there to cheer on some of the great shots that I hit toward the end, but I know everybody

who’s rooting for me at least was watching and screaming at their TV,” Thompson said. “This is definitely a win for everybody who supported me throughout the years. It doesn’t diminish the excitement.”

Adam Long took was second after a 64. Richy Werenski, who had the 18-hole lead and shared it with Thompson after both Friday and Saturday, shot a 70 for his worst round of the tournament and settled for a nine-way tie for third—three strokes back.

Tony Finau finished in the third-place group, too, after a 68. Finau was the only one among the five world Top 30 players in the field to reach the weekend, far outperform-

ing fellow high-profile peers Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Tommy Fleetwood and Paul Casey.

Thompson finished at 19-under 265 at the TPC Twin Cities. He was more nervous than he anticipated, even without spectators.

“It means so much to get a win, and it gets you into so many different tournaments and solidifies your job for two more years. That’s enough pressure for anybody, let alone having fans out there,” said Thompson, who has a 3-year-old son and an infant daughter he and his wife adopted in March.

Nobody throughout the windy and muggy week in Minnesota was steadier than

Thompson, who entered the week 151st in the FedEx Cup standings and rocketed up to 39th on the way to Tennessee for the World Golf Championships event. He had three bogeys in 72 holes.

He hit solidly out of the sand to set up a birdie on the 16th and take sole possession of the lead. He deftly steered around the water danger on the 18th, landing his approach on the back of the green within 15 feet. With Long in the clubhouse, having played five groups ahead, Thompson had two putts to win. He needed only one, bending backward and thrusting his arms straight up in the air after the ball dropped in the cup.

Thompson’s best previous finish in this stopped-and-restarted 2020 season was a tie for eighth at the Travelers Championship in Connecticut, and he missed the cut in his last start at the Workday Charity Open in Ohio two weeks ago. For this win, he not only secured a spot in the PGA Championship, the U.S. Open and next year’s Masters, but a prize of \$1,188,000. That’s nearly 12% of his career earnings on the tour. The U.S. Open, rescheduled for Sept. 17-20, is at Winged Foot in New York, which Thompson called his favorite course “in the entire world.”

In stroke play over the last

# Adams 'a man on a mission,' as Seahawks eye Super Bowl

**WASHINGTON**—The Seattle Seahawks traded valuable, future draft capital Saturday afternoon to acquire All-Pro safety Jamal Adams from the New York Jets.

Given that Seattle traded away safety Bradley McDougald, a 2021 first-round pick, a 2021 third-round pick, and a 2022 first-round pick to get Adams in Seattle, it's clear that the Seahawks are going all-in to win a Super Bowl in the next few years.

Who can blame them? They have Russell Wilson, one of the league's best quarterbacks, in the prime of his career and they don't want to waste a season of his prime.

"We're trying to win the Super Bowl over here," Wilson told 2020 third-round pick Damien Lewis. "We don't play (around). We're trying to make it happen this year."

Adams will be coming to Seattle well-aware of that goal and he addressed the Seattle faithful Saturday afternoon saying he has the same goal of bringing a second Lombardi Trophy to the Emerald City.

"To the Seahawks Org &



Fans," wrote Adams. "You have a man on a mission, a man all in on winning a Super Bowl, being the best leader & teammate he can be, & a man who will give everything he has to the city of Seattle and to the 12s

all across the world. Thank you for believing in me!"

The sixth-overall selection in the 2017 NFL Draft requested a trade away from the Big Apple earlier this offseason and listed Seattle as one of his seven pre-

ferred destinations, presumably because of the ability to contend for a title there.

In just three seasons as a Jet, Adams made two Pro Bowls and was named All-Pro in 2019. He has 12 career sacks,

AP  
In this Dec. 29, 2019 file photo, Seattle Seahawks' Marquise Brown (24) scores a touchdown on a 1-yard rush against the San Francisco 49ers during the second half of an NFL game in Seattle.

28 tackles for loss, and six forced fumbles.

With Adams in the fold, Seattle will have the most talent in its secondary since the Legion of Boom in the mid 2010s.

## Bucs share first look of Brady, Gronk's lockers

In Florida, Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski's new chapter with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers is one step closer to becoming a reality.

The Bucs gave a first look at the former New England Patriots legends' new lockers on Sunday as the team gears up for training camp.

Brady and Gronk's signings were months ago, but that's still going to take some getting used to.

Tampa Bay has high expectations for 2020 after bringing in Brady and Gronkowski to

add to an explosive offense that also consists of All-Pro wide receivers Mike Evans and Chris Godwin. The Patriots responded to Brady's departure this offseason by bringing in former NFL MVP quarterback Cam Newton.

All players are scheduled to report to training camp by July 28.

The new Bucs quarterback made his first trip to the team complex last Thursday, making a quick dash into the testing area.

Because he's Tom Brady and because he's playing for the Bucs now, there was even helicopter footage on the local news (via Kevin O'Donnell of Fox 13).

Like all players, Brady will have to pass a pair of tests 72 hours apart before he can enter the facility for real, in advance of next week's opening of training camp.

Brady has held some workouts with teammates—in defiance of NFLPA recommendations — but signaled his solidarity with the union last night, urging players to "stay unified" to get answers from the NFL.

## COACH

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Players who are turning 13 next will have to move either to the Intermediate 50/70 or Junior League, while players who will be 16 this year will not be eligible for next season's competition in the Senior League (only for 15 to 16 age group). Coaches around the world had earlier asked Little League International for considerations in the age cut-off since the 2020 season had been scrapped.

"Seeing these kids aged out of Little League after not being able to play for two consecutive seasons is disheartening," said Camacho.

"It is unfortunate to say the least. Youth baseball has always been a dominant sport in the CNMI. Now would be a great time to evaluate ourselves and ask why are we involved in the program. The obvious answer is we do it for our kids," the Braves coach/manager said.

"The only consolation we can offer these kids would be to have a 'Big League' division (17 to 18 age group) for them, even if it is only in the local level. Now would be a great time to consider this division," Camacho added.

The Big League program was discontinued by Little League International after the 2016 World Series. On

Saipan, the Yankees ruled the last Big League season after beating the Islanders in the 2016 finals, 9-2.

With the absence of the Big League, players quickly jumped to the Saipan Baseball League and some even played in the U25 tournament, which happened only once in the last four years.

"Players straight out of Senior League have always found it difficult to transition playing against the seasoned adults in the Saipan Baseball League. A Big League division would allow a smoother transition for these players and help them prepare better to play against the islands' best," Camacho said.

## TSUNAMI

*From Page 20*

when having one-on-one instructions with beginners.

With the restrictions and uncertainties that the pandemic has brought to everyone, Kimura said it will be best for them to prepare for tournaments next year.

"I think it will be difficult to participate in international competitions this year, but many big competitions are waiting for us next year. We will do our best to practice with that goal in mind," he said.

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan swimmers and officials would like to thank Jerry Tan for assisting them in finding a venue for their practice sessions.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan member gets her temperature check before proceeding to the changing room to get ready for their training session.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Braves coach/manager George Camacho joins his players during the opening ceremonies for the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members practice in the waters off Micro Beach.



Ohtani  
struggles,  
Athletics top  
Angels  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Bucks hope  
to prove  
doubters  
wrong  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Coach bats for Big League return

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

With aging out Senior League players ineligible for next year's competition after missing back-to-back seasons in the Saipan Little League Baseball, a long-time coach/manager hopes for the return of the Big League program in the CNMI.



George Camacho of the NSA Braves said they have several players who will not be able to join the SLLB tournament next season and it's just unfortunate that their experience in one of the longest-running sports programs on island will be marked by the absence of competition in the last two years.

Last season, no Senior League matches took place

as the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field was unplayable and the CNMI was still recovering from the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Yutu that hit the islands in October 2018. Then this year, Little League International instructed its members, including the CNMI Little League District, to cancel the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After making the tough decision on calling off this year's competitions, including the regionals and Little League World Series, the sanctioning body also announced that waivers will not be issued to players aging out of their respective divisions.

**See COACH on Page 19**



SAIPAN TRIBUNE  
In this 2016 file photo, the Yankees' Angel Palacios gets ready to bat during the bottom of the fourth inning of their Big League game against the Comets in the Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

## Tsunami Saipan swimmers carry on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan swimmers wear masks and observe social distancing while doing drills out of the water.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**S**wimming Center Tsunami Saipan swimmers are taking it one day at a time as they returned to actual training sessions amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said their swimmers are practicing now both in the pool and in the ocean and are strictly following safety protocols set by gov-

ernment authorities as well as guidelines that the club itself created to return to the waters safely and responsibly.

"Initially, our swimmers were devoted to self-training

at home, but recently we started to practice in the water, little by little. We are now brushing up basic skills (drill works) and doing anaerobic training (short sprint) in the pool and aerobics training in the ocean," Kimura said.

Each training session has a limited number of participants with no more than eight swimmers allowed to join. Thirty Tsunami Saipan swimmers have



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura guides a swimmer in performing a drill during their training session in a pool last week.

resumed working out with the club and Kimura said they have to hold multiple sessions in one day. Record holders and those who have represented the CNMI in off-island competitions practice from Monday to Friday, while

swimmers in the lower level group train three or four times, and beginners work out only once a week.

"It's a very restrictive and

difficult situation, but Saipan swimmers are doing their best to practice every day. Everyone is able to maintain the same swimming level before COVID-19 and many swimmers are improving," the Tsunami Saipan coach said.

Kimura reiterated that limiting the number of swimmers on deck to practice and enforcing safety precautions are their priorities and the club appreciates the parents and

the swimmers themselves for understanding this unique setup. Every swimmer must undergo temperature check before entering the training venue and should wear facemask and observe social distancing when doing drills outside the water and in the pool. Kimura, on the other hand, wears protective gear

**See TSUNAMI on  
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